

Syria: We must bolster military to confront Israel's buildup

Christopher meets Moussa in Cairo

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

SYRIA must act quickly in bolstering its military forces to confront Israel's arms buildup, Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam said yesterday.

"We have to make building our national shield a national responsibility which we should approach without hesitation," Khaddam told a rally in Damascus.

"Despite the accords Israel has struck with three Arab parties, it is going ahead with promoting its fighting ability in spite of its current arms arsenal and huge military industries," he added.

Khaddam's remarks at ceremonies marking the 32nd anniversary of the ruling Baath Party's accession to power coincided with the start of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's five-nation tour aimed at reviving the peace process.

Christopher arrived yesterday in Cairo and will meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today before leaving for Israel today and a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Christopher told Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa during a 70-minute meeting last night that the Clinton administration assigns high priority to extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty indefinitely, a senior US official said.

Moussa insisted that Cairo could not commit itself to backing an indefinite extension of the treaty as long as Israel has not signed it. "We cannot commit ourselves to a certain position that Israel is exempted from," he told reporters. "The NPT is a treaty for everybody."

Stopping briefly in a hotel press room after seeing Moussa, Christopher said he called members of Congress while flying to Cairo to urge approval of a pledge to Jordan to forgive its debt to the US.

Israel-Syria scorecard, Gingrich calls for forgiving debt, Page 2

Peres, Arafat to discuss redeployment today

DAVID MAKOVSKY

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat will "discuss details" of IDF redeployment away from Palestinian population centers in the territories when they meet this afternoon at the Erez junction, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The meeting will be in preparation for next week's session involving the two and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

After the Beit Lid bombings, Rabin put the brakes on the self-rule talks, linking progress to the implementation of PA measures to curb terrorism.

There is speculation that the two may actually open maps and begin discussing how IDF redeployment can occur. They are also planning to discuss Palestinian elections and the transfer of civilian jurisdiction to Palestinians in the territories.

Arafat is likely to call for the lifting of the closure, which bars all but 15,000 Palestinians from entering Israel. Arafat is also expected to call for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher will meet Arafat in Gaza tomorrow.

Rabin: I am running for PM in 1996

Ramon pledges allegiance to Rabin

SARAH HONIG

to get rid of the old leadership and replace it with a young one headed by Ramon.

No such resolutions were adopted at the meeting, but yesterday morning Burg further inspired speculation by stressing "The time has come to sweep the stables. Many of the old-time ministers have got to go in a broad cabinet re-shuffle, which would bring into the cabinet [former chief of staff] Ehud Barak, Haim Ramon, [Deputy Foreign Minister] Yossi Beilin, and the first Arab minister, Nawaf Massalha." (The Eight include Ramon, MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital - who were expelled from Labor with him - Beilin, and MKs Burg, Merom, Massalha, and Yael Dayan.)

Merom last night denied there is any rift among the Eight. "We have been together for a decade and have not seen eye to eye many times before... The outcry in the party, however, leads me to feel that this merely affords a pretext for our foes to come after us."

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur, who is particularly close to Rabin, accused the Eight of "seeking to undermine Labor and bring it to total disintegration. If this happens, Ramon would have nowhere to return. We are dealing with people who could end up destroying the party, be it out of design or simply because they are incorrigible publicity hounds who know no limits."

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli attacked the Eight for "having cemented the association between the entire Labor Party leadership and the investigations of corruption in the Histadrut. This is irresponsible, unfair, and disloyal in the extreme. This is not

something we are going to ignore."

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram reminded the Eight that "They are by no means the only ones who could rejuvenate the party and give it a younger new face. There are other candidates for leadership," Baram, a member of Labor's so-called middle generation, is seen as one of them.

Labor MK Shlomo Bubbitt said "the Eight behave like a bunch of conspirators plotting to hijack the government. It is high time the party stops being so scared of them and does something about this bunch."

Ramon must deal with this hostility on the part of party members at a time when the police are demanding evidence about Histadrut-Labor corruption and his return to Labor is being deliberated in the party.

Labor's political bureau is due to take up Ramon's return today and might decide this afternoon to rescind the expulsion of Ramon, Peretz, and Avital. Rabin yesterday received recommendations to this effect in a report by a committee headed by MK Elie Goldschmidt.

Meanwhile, Rabin yesterday canceled a session of Sareau, the Labor ministerial caucus, which was due to deliberate the implications of the Histadrut scandal on the party.

The official explanation was Rabin's busy schedule, but a source close to Rabin said that "On second thought, it was decided that the ministers could contribute nothing but mutual recriminations and acrimony. They would make a bad situation worse and only further the linkage in the public mind between the Histadrut corruption and Labor. It is bad enough that such a linkage will be underscored at the political bureau."



Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar and Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon attend a meeting of local council heads in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Kessar, Yehezkel protest innocence in Histadrut fraud

SARAH HONIG, BILL HUTMAN and LIAT COLLINS

TRANSPORT Minister Yisrael Kessar and Labor MK Avi Yehezkel, who are both suspected of using Histadrut funds for their primary campaigns, maintained their innocence yesterday, making their first public pronouncements on the allegations against them.

Kessar will soon be questioned by police on allegations he used Histadrut funds for his Labor primary campaign in 1992, police sources said yesterday. But police first want to gather more information, the sources said.

The attorney-general, state attorney and representative of the national fraud squad are expected to meet today to discuss handling of the Histadrut Affair, Police Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Kessar, a former Histadrut secretary-general, spoke at a conference of local authorities in Jerusalem shortly before Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon mounted the rostrum. The event's organizers made sure the two political antagonists would not meet.

A visibly emotional Kessar, his voice occasionally breaking, declared that "those who know me know full well that aside from my family I have only one thing - my good name. I will do everything to protect that name and I am sure I will in the end be unequivocally vindicated. I have worked in the Histadrut for 30 years and throughout my record has been without blemish. I have always taken the greatest of care not to stray one bit from ethical standards."

Kessar, thus far the highest-ranking figure mentioned in the current police investigations, is accused of using Histadrut facilities and funds in his 1992 primary campaign for the Labor leadership.

Yehezkel, who in the early '90s headed the Re'ut study fund, is suspected of dipping into that fund to finance his primary race for the Labor Knesset list in 1992.

He vehemently denied this, and argued that he was "in the Histadrut framework for only 20 months. It is unthinkable that I will now be expected to bear responsibility for what was done in the Histadrut for many decades."

He said he would refuse to be the "fall guy" to protect others in the Labor Party.

"My good name, pardon my impudence, is far more important to me than the party's reputation,"

he said. Police are also investigating other episodes, including bogus bookkeeping used to cover up Histadrut financing of spying on Ramon during last year's Histadrut elections campaign, when he challenged the official Labor ticket.

Shahal also told the plenum that there would soon be indictments regarding the suspected financial malfeasance in 1992. The charges will include falsifying records, fraud, breach of trust and other violations.

According to Shahal, the fraud squad met with the Histadrut comptroller to investigate the 1992 primaries for the Labor leadership: the 1993-1994 Histadrut primaries; and the 1994 Histadrut elections.

"From these investigations there is initial suspicion of illegal outlay of Histadrut funds to finance various activities of senior Histadrut people," Shahal said.

It is understood that Kessar is one of those Shahal was referring to, although he did not name him.

"No one is above the law. Each person and each body will be investigated according to need. This is the meaning of proper administration," Shahal said.

The internal Histadrut reports turned over to police on Tuesday by Histadrut legal adviser Yaron Keidar and Labor MK Shmuel Avital were still being studied yesterday by police.

The bulk of the material was a comptroller's report concerning the labor federation's Mifalei Tarbut V'Hinuch company, which allegedly funded campaign services for several Labor Party members. The sources said the comptroller's report would not stand up as evidence in court, and police would have to dig up the original documents on which the report's allegations are based.

"Some of the original documents we already have, but for other documents we are going to have to go back to the Histadrut and find them," a senior police source said.

For the fourth day in a row, Uzi Fassat, the state's witness in the Histadrut fraud case, was questioned by police. The daily questioning of Fassat will likely continue, the sources said.

Fassat is being questioned at Police Fraud Division Headquarters in Jaffa.

Dollar rebounds after 4-day battering on world markets

JOSE ROSENFELD and news agencies

THE dollar rebounded from its four-day battering yesterday after monetary officials made remarks to bolster the currency, which had hit post-war lows against the Japanese yen or the German mark every day starting last Thursday.

Last night in New York, the dollar rose to 91.35 yen after tumbling Tuesday through the psychologically important 90-yen level to finish at 89.65 yen.

It rose to 1.3955 marks from 1.3675 late Tuesday.

Speculators who have pushed the dollar lower finally backed off after US, Japanese and German officials said the dollar's weakness was not justified by economic data.

In Washington, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan came out forcefully against a weak dollar, calling it worrisome and very likely overdone.

Locally, the shekel continued dropping against the currency basket. The shekel lost 0.63 percent against the currency basket to NIS 3.4663 and gained 0.3 percent on the dollar, which traded at NIS 2.961.

The yen surged 2.49 percent against the shekel to NIS 3.306, while the mark gained 1.84 percent to NIS 2.1638. The French franc rose 1.53 percent to NIS 0.6074 and the English pound a more moderate 0.49 percent to NIS 4.8531.

Baby-sitter gives toddler doped cereal

A 35-YEAR-OLD Rehovot woman was arrested and sent for psychiatric observation on suspicion she fed cereal laced with an strong anti-depressant to a two-year-old she was watching.

The toddler was brought by his mother to Kaplan Hospital after she noticed he was suffering from serious stomach pains. Poisoning was suspected immediately, and the boy - who at one point stopped breathing - was treated and was reported out of danger.

The baby-sitter, who admitted putting the drug into the food, was apparently involved in a similar incident recently. She has a police record, and is also an outpatient at the psychiatric hospital in Be'er Ya'acov. (Him)

Private eyes held for plotting murders for Russian mafia

RAINE MARCUS

PRIVATE investigators Ya'acov Bak and Amir Ben-Asher were arrested Tuesday for allegedly plotting murders here on behalf of an Israeli living in the CIS.

Bak, 55, a former senior police officer, and Ben-Asher, in his early forties, are to appear for a remand hearing in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court this morning. They were being held at separate police stations.

Police confirmed the arrests, but refused to elaborate and imposed a total news blackout. However, a police source said Tel Aviv detectives are working in close cooperation with police in Russia and other countries to establish who commissioned the murders.

The source said Bak is suspected of hiring a hit man here to kill two Russian immigrants who owe money to the Russian mafia. Ben-Asher recently visited Russia, the source added.

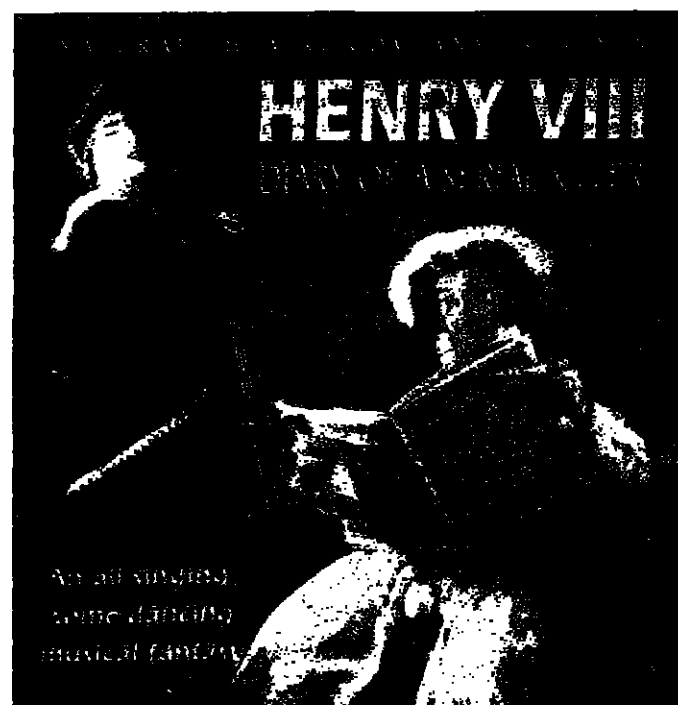
The two were arrested following prolonged surveillance by undercover squads and the testimony of a man, possibly the hit man, who apparently turned informer.

"The case is closed," said a senior officer. "We have all the evidence we need to convict."

The officer said the identity of the man abroad who commissioned the killings is known, but would not confirm whether police there have arrested him or whether more people and other countries are involved.

He did not rule out the possibility that additional suspects may be arrested, but would only say the affair is "very sensitive."

Ben-Asher, former owner of the Mor-Tal investigation company, was arrested last September following allegations he and his late partner, Ze'ev Levita, stole documents from the rival Tashbetz company and transferred them to Ma'ariv. Bak was also arrested on suspicion of having masterminded the thefts. Neither was charged.



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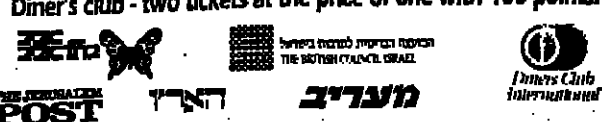
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Liba'i: Right of return not on agenda

JUSTICE Minister David Liba'i said yesterday the question of Palestinian right of return is not on the government's agenda.

Liba'i was responding to a private member's bill by Uzi Landau (Likud) which would have prevented the government from holding negotiations on the refugees and displaced Palestinians.

His bill was defeated 47 to 36. Later in the evening the plenum held a noisy and emotional discussion on 10 motions to the agenda on the subject.

The talk was drawn out by heckling and verbal crossfire that ping-ponged across the plenum. Liba'i called Landau's bill "redundant" and said it was aimed

"at spreading fear among the public."

He said even the Palestinians had agreed to discuss the subject only in the framework of the final talks. He noted that the Knesset could not enact laws over the territories, which made the discussion on the right of return there superfluous.

Landau said Judea and Samaria would turn into bases of terrorism if millions return. If Palestinian terrorism is the result of poverty and economic problems, as the government claims, why would the government want to bring thousands more people into the territories which cannot afford to support them, he asked.

LIAT COLLINS

"It's a policy of national suicide," Landau said the return of the displaced Palestinians would mark the start of a process which would allow for the return of millions from 1948 and before. He accused the government of cynicism using the Camp David Accord to justify its policy.

Liba'i rejected the charge and said Oslo had copied the Camp David Accord's clause on those displaced from 1967.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who responded to the motions to the agenda, also said the discussions on the displaced were based on the clause copied from

the Camp David Accord. According to Beilin, the subject of the 1967 displaced was raised at Camp David by then prime minister Menachem Begin, and it was decided to establish a committee to determine the regulations concerning them. Each side had the right of veto on the regulations, he said.

Beilin accused Likud of "impudence" in opposing the peace accords. "You think if you sign an agreement it's alright, but if someone else signs the same agreement it's not alright," he charged.

Jon Immanuel adds: There was little Palestinian reaction to yesterday's conference

on displaced persons from the Six-Day War, which was to set an agenda for talks rather than reach decisions.

Palestinian Authority Interior Ministry director-general Ahmed Tamimi said there were "priorities for return," which are thought to include wealthy Palestinians, those with homes to come back to and entrepreneurs who would not require financial assistance and could contribute to the economy.

Palestinian sources said a joint Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian working paper called for the return of 8,000 displaced persons from 1967 ahead of an agreement.

PA Police displays 'trainee bombers'

PALESTINIAN secret police yesterday showed journalists two detained Islamic Jihad activists, who police said were being trained to carry out suicide bombings against Israeli targets.

A senior Islamic Jihad source denied the two men belonged to the group and said the police story was fabricated to placate Israel before today's meeting between PA head Yasser Arafat and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mohammed Masri, a senior Palestinian intelligence officer, presented the suspects - Hasan Dardasawi, 19, and Haiman Mohammedin, 16 - at a news conference. He said they were caught a week ago while undergoing "religious preparation" for carrying out an attack.

The Islamic Jihad was preparing those young men to make them into martyrs, said Masri. "But this project was not completed. The security apparatus reached them quickly."

Masri said the police were tipped off by the parents of one of the suspects, and the two were under surveillance for three days before they were arrested. He added that the two had several meetings with psychologists, who convinced them not to carry out any suicide attacks.

The suspects said they were getting extensive religious preparation on Islamic concepts of martyrdom.

"We used to sit in Islamic meetings to talk about religion, open the Koran, and talk about martyrdom, how to be martyred, and how to enter paradise," said Mohammedin, seated next to the secret police officer.

But the two denied they had military training, and police said they did not know of any specific target. (News agencies)

Hizbullah attacks SLA; Lebanon tensions high

DAVID RUDGE

TENSION remained high in southern Lebanon yesterday following a series of Hizbullah attacks against South Lebanese Army positions and reports of extensive low altitude flights by IAF warplanes over Beirut and other parts of Lebanon.

The Lebanese cabinet, meanwhile, decided it will hold a special session in Nabatiya in south Lebanon next Tuesday.

The intention is to mark the anniversary of the 1978 Litani Operation and draw attention to Israel's presence in the region.

Yesterday's incidents began in the early hours of the morning, when Hizbullah gunmen opened mortar, RPG and machine-gun fire at SLA positions near Tumat Niba, in the Jezzina region.

Later, a roadside bomb was detonated in the same area alongside SLA troops and Hizbullah gunmen again fired at positions in the district. There were no casualties in either incident and IDF

and SLA gunners returned fire. In the afternoon, gunmen fired several mortar rounds at an SLA post in the Barasheet region, in the western sector of the zone, again without inflicting any casualties. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

More fighting was reported in the eastern sector last night, with IDF and SLA gunners blasting suspected terrorist targets and infiltration trails north of the zone. There were no reports of casualties in that incident, either.

Reports from Lebanon said IAF warplanes flew at low altitudes over many parts of Lebanon for the third day running.

Hizbullah issued a statement yesterday that its fighters had forced an IDF commando unit operating east of Nabatiya to retreat late Monday night, after the soldiers tried unsuccessfully to abduct two local residents in a passing car. There was no confirmation of this report from any other source.

Major arriving Sunday with large economic delegation

DAVID MAKOVSKY

BRITISH Prime Minister John Major, accompanied by a large economic delegation, is to arrive Sunday for a two-day visit.

It will be only the second time a British leader has visited here. Margaret Thatcher visited nine years ago.

Major will be accompanied by 29 leading British industrialists, one of the largest economic delegations taken abroad by a British prime minister in recent years.

British Ambassador Andrew Burns said last night, "the visit comes at a time that bilateral relationship with Israel has never been so good. It is important to build upon it and move forward. At the

same time, it is also important to give support to the peace process, even in difficult moments."

Moshe Raviv, Israel's ambassador to the Court of St. James, said, "the fact that so many industrialists are coming is a sign that the Arab boycott is a thing of the past."

Last year, six Gulf states ended the secondary boycott, which banned ties with those companies who did business with Israel.

Due to Major's arrival, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher had to be bumped from the King David Hotel. Christopher, who arrives today, will be staying at a nearby location.

Ahiman returned to office in cliffhanger Efrat election

HERB KEINON

EFRAT local council head Yinon Ahiman, who was thrust into the spotlight earlier this year when the government stopped building on Efrat's Givat Hatanar, won a third term in office Tuesday by a 13-vote margin.

Ahiman defeated Rabbi Shimon Golan, of the Efrat Action Committee, 827 votes to 814.

Golan's list actually out-pollled Ahiman's list 821 votes to 673, but they both won four seats on the council. The ninth seat went to Yossi Gaibel, who ran on a Likud-affiliated list.

Ahiman is a self-professed moderate who bucked wishes of the Council of Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza during the Givat Hatanar episode and made his own compromise solution with the government.

Golan, on the other hand, has headed the Efrat Action Com-

mittee, which has been vocal in its opposition to the government's policies.

"I think this is a nice success," said Ahiman of his narrow victory. "Especially when you take into consideration that many of the residents here are Americans who are not used to leaders serving more than two terms."

The results show that more than 50 percent of Efrat residents want a change, Golan said. "I turned to Ahiman after the results and said that we should work together."

Eve Harrow, who got onto the local council on Golan's list, said: "I think we changed Efrat. We woke the place up. It was always considered a moderate place that would accept whatever was going on [and] would accept what the council would tell them. We changed that."



US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his assistant Robert Pelletreau (left) are greeted by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo yesterday. (AP)

Israel-Syria scorecard: Where the parties stand

BACKGROUND

DAVID MAKOVSKY

BELOW is a list of the gaps in peace negotiations with Syria:

Extent of withdrawal
Syrian President Hafez Assad says Israel must fully withdraw from the Golan Heights to the pre-1967 lines.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin refuses to explicitly spell out the extent of withdrawal until an understanding is reached on such issues as scope of normalization, timetable for withdrawal and extent of security arrangements.

He has, however, suggested that Israel would essentially fully withdraw, declaring cryptically that "the extent of withdrawal equals the extent of peace."

Assad says withdrawal must include the dismantling of all Golan settlements and their 11,000 residents.

Rabin has said in principle he does not mind dismantling Golan settlements for peace, but has so far refused to agree to Assad's demand.

Timetable for withdrawal
During President Clinton's visit to Damascus last fall, Assad modified his view of withdrawal somewhat, extending it from a year to 18 months.

Rabin has indicated that nine months after peace, Israel would stage an initial withdrawal that would include a pullback from Druse villages. He said last weekend a more unspecified withdrawal would occur two and a half to three years later.

Normalization
During the same Clinton visit, Assad agreed that Damascus would establish a modicum of diplomatic relations after the first withdrawal, while establishing full ambassadorial links with Israel only after a complete withdrawal from the Golan.

Rabin wants Syria to agree to full diplomatic relations after the first Israeli withdrawal from Druse villages, citing the Egyptian precedent of exchanging ambassadors nine months after a peace treaty has been signed.

Security arrangements
• Early warning stations: Syria says Israel must evacuate early warning stations on the Golan, because this is Syrian territory.

Rabin wants to retain early warning station on Mt. Hermon and does not mind if Syria also establishes its own station there, or even in the Golan.

In a recent speech, Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel would not accept a proposal whereby the US took its place and relayed intelligence data.

• Demilitarized and limited forces zone: Assad agrees that at least part of the Golan should be demilitarized. However, Syria sees Israeli terms for

zones excluding heavy armor to be excessive, since Damascus is only 50 km away on an open plain.

In talks between military chiefs last December in Washington, then IDF chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak reportedly called for a 9:1 ratio for establishing distance of demilitarized zones in Israel's favor in order to avoid a surprise Syrian attack.

Under the terms of the 1974 disengagement agreement, there are severe limits on the Syrian offensive ground capability 20 km. further inside Syria from the Heights, as well as limitations on the deployment of surface-to-air-missile systems for 25 km.

• Reducing size of standing army: Assad reportedly believes that cuts should be in the air force, an area where Israel is seen to have the edge, and not in ground troops, where Syria is perceived to have the advantage.

Rabin has called for "mutual" but not symmetrical cuts in the standing armies of both countries.

Israel relies much more on reserves, thereby making it vulnerable to surprise attack for the first 48 hours. Therefore, Israel would like Syria to restructure its forces in such a way that would more resemble Israel's and thereby reduce prospects of surprise.

• International peacekeeping: Assad prefers the United Nations to head the peacekeeping effort, which would ensure that military terms of the peace agreement are kept.

Rabin distrusts the UN, since the mandate would consistently have to be renewed by the Security Council, thereby potentially politicizing the issue. He said he wants approximately 1,000 US forces to be part of multinational force that would serve as "monitors" to ensure peace is kept, as in the Sinai.

• Terrorism: Assad denies that 10 rejectionist groups in Damascus are engaged in terrorism and regards this issue as his internal affair.

Rabin wants Assad to eject the rejectionists and desist from terrorism.

• Lebanon: Both Syria and Israel say any Golan deal would include southern Lebanon, although specifics have not been negotiated. Rabin said Israel would leave southern Lebanon six to nine months after the Syrians disarmed Hizbullah and the Lebanese Army successfully takes its positions.

While Syria has traditionally called for Israel to leave southern Lebanon unconditionally, it remains unclear if it accepts Israel's terms.

Israel also wants to ensure that Syria does not divert the headwaters of the Jordan River coming from the Hatzbani River, just as it wants the Syrians not to divert Jordan headwaters coming from the Golan Heights' Banias River.

Sheves to remain in PM's Office

PRIME Minister Rabin issued a statement yesterday confirming reports he rejected a recent offer from Prime Minister's Office director-general Shimon Sheves to submit his resignation.

In the statement, Rabin voiced full confidence in Sheves, apparently to avoid a public perception that he has fallen from grace.

Sheves had had repeated clash-

es with several ministers. There have been reports that he sought to persuade Rabin to depose Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer because he was at odds with their policies.

Reports of Sheves's departure began to grow when he stopped appearing with Rabin at public events. David Makovsky

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordanians nab Israeli with forged dinars

JORDANIAN police yesterday detained a group of Israelis at the Sheikh Hussein crossing point on suspicion that some had paid their crossing fees with counterfeit dinars.

The incident occurred as a group of 66 tourists from Kafi Kana, near Nazareth, crossed into Jordan for a tour. One member of the group admitted to having handed over the counterfeit dinars, and was detained by the Jordanian police for further questioning regarding the source of the forged notes. The group was allowed to proceed with their tour.

Arafat meets Mazen, Kaddoumi

PLO leader Yasser Arafat met in Tunis yesterday with Abu Mazen and Farouk Kaddoumi in advance of a Fatah central committee meeting. That meeting will convene before the PLO executive committee meets there next week to decide whether peace talks should be suspended in the absence of substantial progress, Kaddoumi said this week.

Tunisia won't join Israel, US in exercise

Tunisia told the US yesterday it will not participate in a joint fleet exercise with the US, Israel and other Middle East countries due to take place soon, Israel Radio reported. Tunis also announced that it had frozen the opening of Israel's interest section in Tunis.

Meet the Author - Bob Rockaway

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PAUL M. RIVNER

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, March 9, 1995, at 2:30 p.m.
at the Yarkon Cemetery.

Shiva will take place at the Rivner family home: 79 Hagail Street, Givat Savyon.

Anni, Miki, Michal, Danny and Tali Rivner

מזמן האחרון

'Hapoalim should be boycotted for caving in to haredi pressure'

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein said he was "more than worried" that Bank Hapoalim cut off financing to a construction project in Jaffa, following haredi threats to boycott the bank if it did not comply.

"If Bank Hapoalim is planning to take sanctions against someone acting in accordance with the law in a totally legitimate fashion, I think people like us will be forced to consider whether we should be working with this bank," Rubinstein said.

He made the remarks during a visit to the construction site, which has been the scene of numerous haredi demonstrations in the past several weeks. The haredim said the site contains an ancient Jewish cemetery, a claim vehemently denied by the Antiquities Authority.

Authority director Amir Drori said the bones found at the site were animal bones. The Atra Kadisha, he said, "took the animals and buried them on Har Hamein-uhot in Jerusalem as if they were our ancestors."

Bank Hapoalim refused to comment on Rubinstein's statement. A bank spokesman said the bank has only ceased funding temporarily, until the dispute with the haredim is resolved.

GALIT LIPKOS BECK and Nim

Udi Dan, chairman of Ilan-Gat, which is building the controversial project, said he had been informed of the bank's suspension of financing on Friday.

"They said to me that they would be happy if we could reach some sort of compromise with the haredim," Ilan said. "But they did not specify who is going to pay for this compromise. I believe the bank is waiting to see what happens next."

The site is to eventually contain 270 apartments for young couples. Rubinstein said the government wanted very much to bring upper-class young families to Jaffa and south Tel Aviv to better integrate the city's schools.

Police investigating alleged fraud at Religious Affairs Ministry

BILL HUTMAN and Nim

THE allegedly illegal transfer of state funds to haredi institutions by two units of the Religious Affairs Ministry is under investigation by the National Fraud Squad, police confirmed yesterday.

Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of the police investigations department, said the investigation began recently. He declined to elaborate.

The investigation is centered on the ministry's Center for the Development of Haredi Education, and the department that deals with support to Talmud Torah schools. During the period under review, 1991-1992, the budgets of these departments reportedly grew by 76 percent, compared to the previous year.

Police sources said that the investigation began

after an early draft of this year's state comptroller's report on the Religious Affairs ministry was given to the investigations department. The period under review includes the end of Avner Shaki's tenure as minister under the Likud, and the beginning of the period when Shas MK Rafael Pinhasi was the deputy minister in Yitzhak Rabin's government.

Last night Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret announced the dismissal of Israel Lippel, a senior adviser at the ministry who has worked there for 16 years. Shetret's spokesman said the dismissal included removal from the ministry's appropriations committee, which was allegedly involved in the affairs under police investigation.

Olmert unveils program for Jerusalem 3000

HELEN KAYE

BIG names, big budgets and big aims characterize the Jerusalem 3000th anniversary celebrations, which start September 4 this year and continue through December 1996.

Beethoven's opera *Fidelio*, performed by the Berlin State Opera; a sight and sound spectacular on the history of Jerusalem directed by Franco Zeffirelli; tenor Jose Carreras in a gala concert of King David's psalms; and Lorin Maazel and the Pittsburgh Symphony are only some of the international names coming to Jerusalem.

Israel is represented, among others, by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta; new plays by Shmuel Hasfari and Yehoshua Sobol; and a huge pageant honoring the city.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert - introducing the 15-month calendar of cultural events, exhibitions, conventions and other festivities - said the celebrations aim to "reinforce the perception of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel, express the fact that Jerusalem is a holy city to religions other than Judaism and to encourage tourism."

Olmert stressed that Jerusalem 3000 "is not a political event, but we don't pretend to ignore the

broad consensus among the Israeli public of the city's special significance."

Tourism and Home Affairs minister Uzi Bar-Am said the government regards Jerusalem 3000 as a national event.

The events will begin with a ceremony at the Knesset and the formal opening to the public of the archeological site of the original City of David.

Jerusalem 3000 has a budget of some NIS 34 million, of which approximately 30 percent is expected to come from donations, sale of broadcast rights and international and local sponsors.

The government contributes NIS 9m. to the budget, the Jerusalem Municipality and Jerusalem Foundation NIS 3m and ticket sales will generate NIS 9m.

Bar-Am said the government was unaware of any European Union instructions to member governments not to participate in Jerusalem 3000 celebrations, because the events celebrate only the Jewish city.

Olmert, confirming that the EU is uneasy about the event, said he had recently told Dutch Ambassador Christiaan Kroener that "the [European] community can argue about Jerusalem's future but not about its past."

Meir withdraws petition against activity at Orient House

EVELYN GORDON

JERUSALEM city councilman Shmuel Meir (NRP) yesterday withdrew his petition to the High Court of Justice against Palestinian activity at Orient House, but threatened to reappear in court if the government does not honor its promise to enforce the law in Jerusalem.

Meir said he has sent the police information on 12 to 15 agencies of the Palestinian Authority now operating in Jerusalem.

The Gaza-Jericho Agreement Law categorically bans all activity by the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem.

Meir petitioned the court against the government's failure to implement the law after it decided not to forbid a meeting between PA minister without portfolio Faisal Husseini and three senior European Union officials at Orient House last month.

On Tuesday, the state submitted a document to the court in which it said it did plan to enforce the law, but because the law was so new it needed time to "examine the situation."

In light of this, Meir's attorney, David Rotem, withdrew the petition at a hearing yesterday.



Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein (right) visits the controversial construction site in Jaffa yesterday.

(Meir Kir)

Purchase tax on apartments reduced

EVELYN GORDON

BUYING an apartment will now be slightly cheaper, thanks to a law approved by the Knesset in final reading yesterday.

The bill, by Avraham Poraz (Meretz) and Meir Sheerit (Likud), will reduce the purchase tax on many apartments by as much as NIS 1,590 this year and NIS 3,390 next year.

The reduction is retroactive to January 16.

Until now, the purchase tax on apartments has been 0.5 percent on the first NIS 187,000, 3.5% between NIS 187,000 and NIS 465,620, and 4.5% on the portion over NIS 465,620.

The new law extends the 0.5% bracket to NIS 240,000

this year and NIS 300,000 next year. The dividing line between the 3.5% and the 4.5% bracket, however, will remain the same.

Thus, buyers will enjoy the full NIS 1,590 savings on any house worth NIS 240,000 or more this year, and a savings of NIS 3,390 on houses worth NIS 300,000 or more as of next year.

Those who buy houses worth between NIS 187,000 and NIS 240,000 will enjoy smaller savings.

Both Poraz and Sheerit had originally wanted much more drastic reductions in the purchase tax, which not only raises apartment prices but, they say, is economically

unjustifiable.

However, the government objected strenuously, saying sharper reductions would cost the Treasury too much. A compromise was therefore reached in committee which the government agreed to support, and the bill then passed its final readings easily, 9-0.

According to Poraz, the bill as it stands will cost the government some NIS 120,000 this year and an additional NIS 120,000 next year.

Of the 130,000 apartments sold last year, about 77,000, or 60%, cost enough to benefit from the new tax reductions, according to figures prepared by Knesset Finance Committee economic adviser Smadar Elhanani.

Court orders Bezek workers to halt sanctions

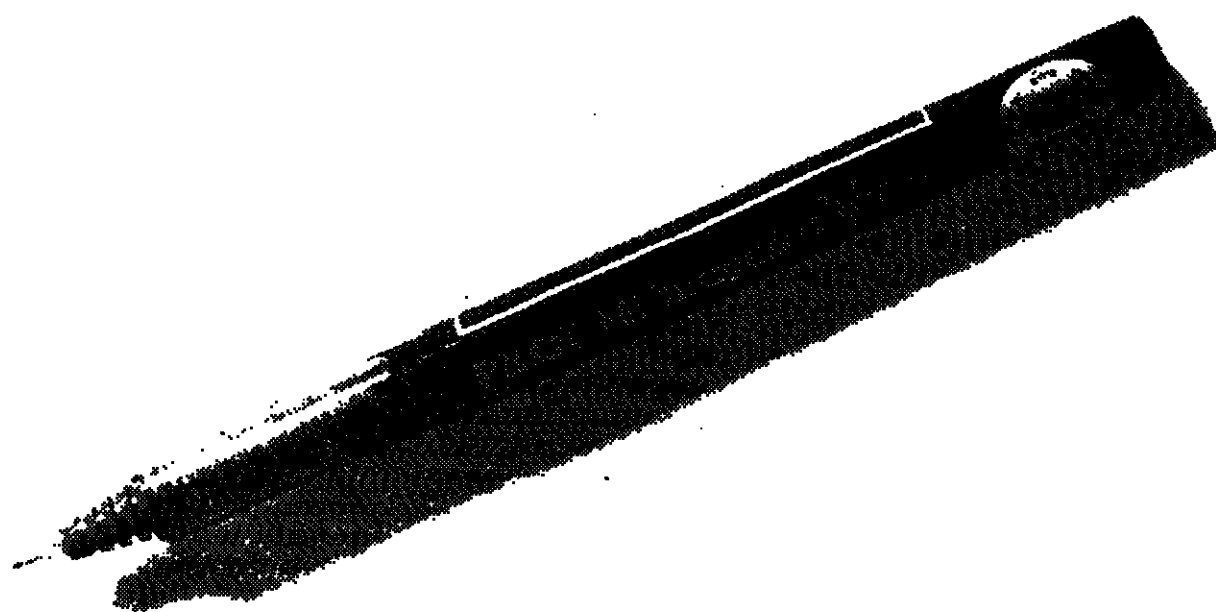
JUDY SIEGEL

THE Tel Aviv Labor Court yesterday afternoon issued restraining orders requiring Bezek technicians to halt their week-old sanctions. The union said last night that it had not yet received the papers and would thus not comment on its response.

Thousands of broken phone lines have accumulated during the strike, as technicians refused to repair any lines except those connected to hospitals and security facilities.

If the technicians continue their sanctions, they could be declared in contempt of the court and be fined.

SIGNING FOR PEACE IS EASY



We all want peace.

The Right, the Left, Labor, Likud.

The pub crowd in Tel Aviv as well as members of Kibbutz Merom Golan.

But even more important, we all want - we all need - to prevent war. The only thing preventing war today and in the foreseeable future is a strong Israel in control of the Golan Heights. No-one has yet come up with a better alternative.

We all want peace. Real peace. Peace with security.

Yehor / (H) THE GOLAN WITH ALL OUR SOUL

Citizens for Israel's Security in conjunction

with the *Third Way*

8 Kaplan St., Tel Aviv Tel: 03-695-0052 Fax: 03-691-8475
To join or for further information, call Teleclal 03-638-8984

National Insurance Institute



Addendum to Social Insurance Agreement between Israel and Germany

On February 12, 1995, Israel and Germany signed an addendum to their Social Insurance Agreement.

Under the terms of this addendum, Israelis who come from Eastern Europe will be able to claim an old age and survivor's pension, if they meet the following criteria:

1. They immigrated to Israel before July 1, 1990.
2. They have accumulated years of work in Eastern European countries.
3. During the period in which the influence of National Socialism spread to what was then the applicant's homeland, the applicant's language and culture were German, and he/she was aged 16 or over.

The NII is now discussing with the German national insurance institutes guidelines for the submission of claims. Booklets will be issued in Hebrew, German and English, giving details of these rights, and explaining the way in which a claim should be made to the NII.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT

the majority of those entitled to this pension will not be asked to pay insurance contributions. The amount they should pay to the German authorities will be deducted from the amount due to them (the pension will be paid retroactively).

NOTE

that the addendum to the Social Insurance Agreement will become effective, after ratification by both countries. Claims for the pension may be submitted, up to two years after the ratification date.

Information and Public Relations

National Insurance - Your Social Welfare Shield

هكذا من الأصل



Purim just got sweeter

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MEISELS

THE first new ice cream of the year looks as though it's dressed for Purim as an inverted clown's hat. It's a transparent plastic cone of two-toned Tenne Noga ice cream with a colored ball of bubble gum (mastic) in the bottom. Noga Mastic (no relation to glida mastic, an ice cream with a slightly gummy consistency) is either chocolate-vanilla or strawberry-vanilla, with hardened chocolate on top. It comes with a little plastic spoon, so hands should stay clean.

The required nutritional data on the colorful lid are so small and so obscured by the design as to be almost impossible to read. With the help of a magnifying glass, I learned that the contents of the plastic cone weigh 50 grams and contain 133 calories. I also discovered the Hatam Sofer harodi hechsher on the label. The price is NIS 2 per cone.

THERE'S NOTHING quite like hot fudge on ice cream. It's easy enough to make at home by melting a dark chocolate bar with butter or margarine, sugar and a little milk or water in a double-boiler or microwave oven, but it's even easier to buy it ready-made. Ben & Jerry's Hot Fudge, in a 200 ml. glass jar (NIS 6.90), is now available at the ice-cream chain and in supermarkets. It is made with real cream and butter, and, like Ben & Jerry's ice cream here, has a Belz harodi hechsher.

To get the proper effect, warm it (easiest in a microwave oven) before pouring it onto ice cream, where it hardens.

CHILDREN AREN'T the only ones dressing up as Power Rangers this year. So are chocolates. Vered Hagalil (Rose of Galilee) has hollow milk-chocolate figures in the shape of the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers. Five characters from the popular TV series are available in colored aluminum foil suits.

Singles cost NIS 5.80; a gift box of three costs NIS 16.50 (a saving of 30 agorot per figure). Labeling on the box is in English, French and Hebrew. Each Power Ranger figure contains only 35 grams of milk chocolate, so you're paying mainly for the shape. The calorie count is 190 per Power Ranger.

If you want more chocolate for less money, Vered Hagalil offers a Chocolate Zoo gift box of milk-chocolate rectangles for young children. The wrapping on each piece of the undecorated chocolate has a picture of a domesticated or wild animal with its name in clear, vowelized Hebrew. It's perfect for first-graders or preschool children. The colorful box (NIS 8.90) contains 16 pieces totaling 144 grams, under the kashrut supervision of the Safed Rabbinate. (There is no pig among the animals.)

FOR ADULTS interested in quality chocolate, Vered Hagalil has recently come out with a 100-gram "fine bittersweet chocolate" bar, called simply Chocolada, in a plain brown wrapper at the modest price of NIS 2.90. This dark chocolate has a high 46 percent minimum of cocoa solids and is said to melt easily and evenly, making it useful for baking as well as munching. The inside of each wrapper contains one of 15 recipes (in Hebrew only) from the Dan Tel Aviv Hotel's

pastry chef, Roni Freddi Mordechai. The bar I opened had a chocolate fondue recipe.

This dark chocolate, under Safed Rabbinate supervision, is marked "Kosher - Dairy," only because it is made on the same production line as milk chocolate. Vered Hagalil says. It has no dairy content.

The company gave no convincing explanation as to why the "fine bittersweet" should not be made on the "parve" production line which Vered Hagalil uses for its ordinary bittersweet chocolate bars, in red wrappers and marked "parve." Parve chocolate has greater usefulness for kashrut-observing customers both for after-dinner snacking and for baking.

Vered Hagalil also has a line of chocolates - Vered - for harodi customers.

TASTE OF ISRAEL, a growing competitor of Elite and Vered Hagalil, has new, improved chocolate bars of its own, both milk chocolate and bittersweet.

Its bittersweet, in a red wrapper, is marked "parve," with an Agudat Yisrael harodi hechsher. It contains 54 percent cocoa solids, even more than in Vered Hagalil's "fine bittersweet." The milk-chocolate version, in a blue wrapper, has a subtle taste, similar to that of Hershey's chocolate made in the U.S., which distinguishes it from most other brands.

The price per bar is only NIS 1.90, but it contains only 75 grams.

VIRTUALLY ALL local sweets companies offer inexpensive Purim gift packs for children. Elite's this year are in the triangular shape of *oznei Haman*, and in-



Vered Hagalil's Chocolate Zoo gift box has 16 pieces, each in a wrapper depicting an animal with its Hebrew name.

clude sweets wrapped in contemporary children's themes from Power Rangers to Barbie. The recommended price is NIS 6.50.

Taste of Israel invites consumers to its factory outlet shop to make up their own *mishloach manot* gift packs for Purim. Prices range from NIS 6 to NIS 17.

The factory shop, open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, is in the New Industrial Zone of Rishon LeZion, 25 Hagahana St. (near the Gali factory).

Taste of Israel also sells ready-made gift packs in ordinary retail stores.

The Adin wafer company of Hod Hasharon, now celebrating its 20th birthday, suggests its wafers as components of Purim gift parcels. They have the hechsher of Agudat Yisrael.

A CHOCOLATE gift box fit for a king is Lindt of Switzerland's Lindor chocolate-cream filled milk-chocolate balls, imported by Friedland. The bright red box contains 360 grams of the elegantly wrapped chocolate balls -

30 pieces for NIS 24.95.

The label carries the "Kosher - Dairy" hechsher of Rabbi Ya'akov Auerbach, an Israeli Orthodox rabbi who heads the Rabbinical World Union for Kashruth, a supervisory company mainly for European-made products. Its emblem is a back-to-back *kaf* and "K" inside a Star of David.

The labeling is all in Hebrew, except for the names Lindt and Lindor.

CHILDREN WILLING to dress up as sweets - or anything suggesting sweets - are invited to visit any branch of the Greenberg Supershuk chain on Purim on Thursday, March 16, between 10 a.m. and noon.

They will receive a gift pack of goodies from Tofine Sa'ar of Kibbutz Sa'ar, which manufactures coated wafers and other sweets.

A clown will be on hand to entertain children at all nine branches of the discount food chain - in Holon, Nesher/Tel-Hanan, Kiryat Shmona, Sderot, Sarfona-Rehovot, Tel Aviv, Bilu, Or Akiva and Beit She'an.

For the small-bag addict

GLAD RAGS
ROSE-MARIE TURK

IT sits there staring at you. Your new small handbag with the firm sides, the pert handle, the crisp clasp. It reminds you of Jackie O., Grace Kelly and, yes, you must admit, the Queen Mother.

It's going to make you ever so chic for spring. It's also going to drive you crazy.

What, you wonder, will you ever squeeze inside? Where can you go without your cellular phone, your sunglasses, your reading glasses, your four lipsticks, three eye shadows, two blushes and one mascara wand?

You'd be surprised. Just take it from women who have already downsized and minimized. They have turned packing a bag, sometimes no bigger than a paperback novel, into an art and a science.

Their cellular phones stay in their cars. They carry small electronic date books and folding glasses or antique lorgnettes. In place of wallets, they might slip in just one credit card and a few bills fastened by a money clip.

Their pens, paper, combs, mirrors and such are scaled down to Lilliputian proportions.

"They're like children's bags," opines Suzanne Marx, a Los Angeles-based fund-raiser who prefers a bag that measures 10 x 12.5 cm. and miraculously accommodates a Tiffany folding mirror, sample-size Bulgari perfume, mini breath spray, linen handkerchief, paper-thin Chanel rouge case, lip liner, lipstick, credit card, "a couple of dollars for parking," fold-up nonprescription glasses, and a small sterling silver pen and pad.

Small-bag addicts must forever weigh the options. In Marx's case, she can live without certain essentials, including a comb. "I just run my hands through my hair," she says. But as a fund-raiser, she must have paper and pen. After any social event, she says, "I might come home with 10 pages of notes." Despite such bare-bones minimalism, placement is everything. "You have to engineer it; you can't just throw things in," explains Rosalind Millstone, a Los Angeles design and color consultant who eschews a large bag because, she explains, "it's a temptation to carry things that one doesn't need."

"As my purses got smaller, I began to enjoy them more," she says. "I began to pick up small things to go with them. You don't need a big compact. You don't need a big anything." She packs a 15 x 10-cm. purse (her largest) with a small Swiss army knife, wallet, credit-card case, flashlight on a key chain, silver Tiffany comb, mirror, spray atomizer and antique lorgnette.

Miniature freebies such as airline combs and hotel sewing kits also are the right size for small purses.

To get a dab of lipstick, Judy Knapp, co-owner of the Los Angeles apparel company, refrigerates the tube "so it's nice and solid, then I slice a bit off. You create your own little things," she says, summing up the tiny-bag technique, which, for some, includes the tiny-bag transportation code: To avoid looking like the Queen Mother, you just carry it in your hand.

(Los Angeles Times)

Fashions that take after a certain stripe

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

IT'S happening again. Politics are impacting on fashion. While the Middle East peace process has struck more than a few snags since the famous Rabin-Arafat handshake, fashion designers have optimistically included Middle Eastern inspired themes in their new season's collections.

Soft, fluid, unconstructed shapes are featured in most collections, but the most vivid, visual impression is of stripes which are surfacing in his, hers and unisex garments.

They are not so much the formal bankers' stripes of the business world, but the wider, multi-colored stripes of regional garments of the Middle East and occasionally the variegated black-and-white stripes of the tallit.

Kenzo is dressing his men in elegantly nonchalant pastel stripes, and clothing his women in more masculine, starkly dramatic black-and-white stripes.



The unisex look by Lanrè features vivid stripes within a relaxed silhouette.

The color theme follows through in the Lanrè collection, but the drama is relieved by a relaxed silhouette.

Mondi stripes intensify from



From Mondri comes a more sporty look, with stripes ranging from neutral tones to vivid colors. Here, a matching striped hat sets off the outfit.

Avia body suit looking good in its own right and even better when teamed with white jacket and pants.

Stripes are also part of the aerobic scene, with the smartly cut

be more glamorous and romantic - a sign perhaps that after proving they can make it in a man's world, women are now prepared to step back into their own.



Designer Kenzo has started dressing his men in elegantly nonchalant pastels, in soft, fluid shapes.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

SOFA BED - beautiful, NIS 300. 02-604911.
MAGNEX FOOD PROCESSOR - Cuisinart, new, never used, in box, NIS 300. 02-44030.
BEVELED CRYSTAL MIRROR - gold antique-style frame, NIS 300. 09-443139, 09-910253.
CALORIC DOUBLE STOVE - 10 years old, excellent working order, all gas, NIS 300. 02-6418478.
MANDOLIN - second hand, NIS 100. 02-637122, evenings.
3 PICTURE FRAMES - NIS 50 each. 02-317179.
SALON TABLE - and 2 corner tables, NIS 40 each, NIS 100 for all 3. 02-9224989.
3-4 SUITS - finest material, excellent condition, NIS 250 o.b.o. 06-429893.
AEG DEEP FREEZER - table model, needs small repair, NIS 100. 04-242207.
MEN'S LEATHER BELTS - sizes 30-38, black, brown and beige, NIS 20 each. Gary, 04-921130.
LIGHT FIXTURE - white, 6 globes, nearly new, NIS 250 o.b.o. 02-933891.
MELLIAND TEXTILBERICHT - years '50s and '60s, NIS 200. 02-647024.
365 WAYS TO COOK CHINESE - NIS 55. 06-567331.
BARRON'S CASSETTES AND BOOK - course used by US to train diplomatic personnel, NIS 255. 04-9221530.
REVERSIBLE WINTER COAT - NIS 100; winter suit, size 44, NIS 75; hair dryer with hood, NIS 50. 04-242572.
PURIM CARDS FROM GIL SARAH - each card pays for a gift basket to a needy old person. NIS 18. Call FR office 02-244242, or come by 43 Hanev'im St., Jerusalem.
OSTERIZER - Kitchen Center, hardly used, NIS 300. 02-714210.
DREUM DRESSHOUSE COAT - Tamsa design, size medium, practically new, NIS 150; iron, Philips, used, NIS 100

o.b.o. 02-421452.
DAISY-WHEEL PRINTER - Juki 6100, NIS 160; B&W monitor, NIS 60, 1200 baud modem NIS 120, all working condition. 02-79975.
FURIM PRINCESS DRESS - pink, size 6, worn once, incl. crown and magic wand, NIS 65. 02-967081.
SOUTHWESTERN BELL CORDLESS TELEPHONE - good condition, NIS 210. 02-319175.
CANON A-50 DOT MATRIX PRINTER - in perfect working order, NIS 200. 02-637152.
BIRD CAGE - suitable for budgie or similar-sized birds, NIS 30; children's bed-guard (Lipaki), NIS 25. 02-733562.
FINE CHEST OF DRAWERS - NIS 150; 2-door closet, excellent condition, NIS 150; many household items, free. 02-434118.
REFRIGERATOR - good working condition, NIS 250. 02-764201.
PET CARRIER - used once, 26x34x46 inches, NIS 125; Paschoa airbrush travel kit, 2 P - H #3 kit (single action), NIS 125. 02-724807.
FOOD PROCESSOR - Hamilton Beach (US), brand new, NIS 300. 02-785240.
CABINET - with bookshelves combination, new in carton, sturdy, 76x18x20 cm, NIS 300. 02-620024.
BABY CAR-BED/SEAT - Cosco, for newborn till age 1, NIS 300. 02-381858.
3 PLADELET KEYS - with cylinder, NIS 200. Yaelle, 02-832143.
ELECTRIC HEATER - new, 4 coils, NIS 80; oriental rug, almost new, NIS 150; large children's rug, NIS 60. 02-714563.
CAR SEAT - like new, NIS 180. 02-835183.
ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER - Olympia (English only), nearly new, extra ribbons, NIS 300. 02-63297.
RECORD PLAYER - perfect working order, Mitsubishi, stainless steel, NIS 300. 02-78971.
AMERICAN SOFA - large, scroll-arm, needs re-upholstering, NIS 300. 02-611189.
SUNFILTER CURTAINS - 3, large, Terry-lene, 02-702911, after 4 pm.
ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER - Brother, 2-3 pp. memory and box ribbons, daisy wheel, NIS 300. Adina, 02-631761.
CAR LEAVING FOR NANTANA ON KREV PESSAH - returning on April 22 eve, has 2 vacant places. 02-631281.
DEESSER - 4 drawers, 85 w x 70 h, NIS 110. 02-830608.
ARMCHAIR - Italian Provincial decor, NIS 250. 02-820024.
PURIM COSTUMES - new, from US, up to size 5, NIS 30 each. 02-818975.
SLIDE PROJECTOR - screen on stand, 120 cm wide, used a couple of times, NIS 300. 02-631177.
AEG JUICE EXTRACTOR - never used, NIS 200; Vivitar electronic flash for 35 mm camera, NIS 35; vaporizer, hardly used, NIS 10. 02-664532.
EXERCISE BIKE - NIS 275; Brita water pitcher, NIS 25. 02-520221.
CRYSTAL VASES - NIS 300. 02-814529.
N. WOMEN'S SWEATERS - NIS 25 each; jeans jacket, NIS 60; blouses, NIS 15; sheets and pillowcases, NIS 50. 02-712191.
SUITCASE - big, used only once, NIS 170. 02-787718.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC - years 1988-1994, excellent condition, all 84 issues, NIS 225. 02-639990.
ANTIQUE DESK - NIS 200. 02-354897.
ACROPOLIS DINNER SERVICE - NIS 250. 02-274130.
8" COLOR TV - almost new, NIS 300. 02-816345.
COFFEE TABLE - excellent condition, formica top, solid wood, NIS 300. 02-834665.
REVOLVING SUPER-STYLING BIG CURLS TONG - new, can create curls, waves, or straighten hair, NIS 150. 02-610768.
CHILD'S BED - rustic wood, with good mattress, NIS 300. 02-850672.
DESK - with shelves and cupboard, NIS 100; Hoover vacuum cleaner, mini, needs small repair, NIS 150. 02-361839.
HEATER - new table model, NIS 50; the-

ater raincoat (size 3-9), NIS 80; brown rainjacket (small), NIS 40; boots, black leather, knee high, NIS 60. 02-638623.
FAKE FUR JACKET - size 12, dark brown, NIS 250 o.b.o. 02-513896, after 3 p.m. NS.
MICRO-CASSETTE RECORDER - Sony, NIS 250; Kodak-disc camera, NIS 50. 02-561232.
HEADSET TELEPHONE - (no hands!), NIS 150; Kitan multi-covered comforter cover, king size, NIS 60; Philips electronic curling iron with steam, NIS 50. 02-710927.
BED - NIS 130; suitcase, NIS 35; table, NIS 100; bag on wheels, NIS 35. 02-660598.
RENOIR PICTURES - glass framed, excellent condition: *Cover Garden at Night* and *Dancing Couple*, NIS 100 each. 02-618335.
PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL GAMES - book, NIS 50; assorted baby toys, NIS 50; bike car carrier, NIS 40. 02-661002.
JOHNNY WALKER RED - NIS 75; Bacardi rum, NIS 100; Ennauet, NIS 47; Moskovaya, NIS 45. 02-285869.
GAS HEATER - De Longhi, like new, NIS 300. 02-712120.
CURTAINS - light mauve, NIS 300. 02-787718.
SOLID WOOD TABLE - new from Ikea, 120x75 cm, NIS 300. 02-663822.
EL-CHAIR - NIS 45; diving equipment, NIS 50. 02-864819.
SONY DOUBLE CASSETTE RADIO - CFS W 370 S, detachable speakers, NIS 300. 02-667717.
TELECARD FOR WORLDWIDE USE - cheaper than Bezeq, AT&T, etc., rechargeable, NIS 90. USA card, NIS 60. 02-51741.
10 KG BONZO DOG FOOD - free to a dog lover. 02-350958.
OLYMPUS MU CAMERA - NIS 300. 02-716927.

WANTED

SMOKER - for making smoked fish. 02-

voluntary organization for Russian olim. Will collect. Keren Klita, 02-788277, NS.

EXCHANGE

STAMPS - also, exchange folk guitar lessons for handmade gifts on professional level. 04-234335.
UNIVERSAL JEWISH ENCYCLOPAEDIA - for Encyclopaedia Judaica (in good condition). 02-638220.

LOST & FOUND

FOUND - bat (ma'at?) at No. 24 bus stop on February 21. 02-664731.

PETS

ADOPT A PET - selection of dogs and cats awaiting good homes at the Jerusalem SPCA. Atarot. 02-851531.
FOUND - big, pale brown, male dog, in Baka area, with collar and chain link, no

disc. 02-733406.
LOVELY 3-MONTH OLD PUPPY - black with white paws and chest, abandoned on our doorstep, free to good home. 02-760332.
DISNEY-TYPE DOG - nine years old, if you want to save the life off a sweet, quiet, co-personality dog, please, please call 02-82063.
BEAUTIFUL, FRIENDLY KITTEN (?) - house trained, seeks warm and loving home. 02-833995.
YOUNG PART-BOTTLEWEILER - spayed, vaccinated, gentle with kids and cats, NIS 300; also friendly, healthy, rescued cats, free to good homes. 02-415865.
SIX-MONTH-OLD CAT - male, black/white, beautiful, spayed, striped cat with huge eyes and white markings, free to good homes. 02-283521, NS.
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Eight churches vs Israel

LED by Cardinal William Keeler, president of the US Catholic Conference and Archbishop of Baltimore, eight church leaders urged President Bill Clinton on Tuesday "to press Israel to stop expanding its presence in Jerusalem."

Not surprisingly, leaders of Jewish organizations in New York were "shocked and angered" by the move. They have been conducting a friendly and seemingly fruitful dialogue with some of these Christian churchmen for many years, and they view the churches' move against Israel as a betrayal. World Jewish Congress Secretary-General Yisrael Singer was incensed enough to suggest that questioning Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel casts doubt on the sincerity of the Christian leaders' pronouncements against antisemitism.

It would be foolish to suppose that the church leaders - almost all of whom represent denominations with substantial following in the Middle East - have made this move unprompted. As Cardinal Keeler said, the meeting with Clinton was set "for the sake of the Christian population of Jerusalem and the region, whose historic presence has dwindled so dramatically in recent years." That they are genuinely concerned about the state of these flocks is as indisputable as it is justified.

As one church official has put it, "To be a minority in the East implies being subject to abuse and mistreatment. There is no need to refer to ancient history to confirm this. We have seen in this century the genocide of the Armenian people of Turkey, the massacre of the Assyrian-Nestorians in Iraq, and of the Christians of Southern Sudan... Religious fundamentalism which does not shy from violence is rampant."

"The Copts in Egypt, one of the preferred targets of Islamic fundamentalists, are emigrating by the thousands to more benign places or - unable to resist the social pressures - convert to the Moslem faith. According to the estimates of the local church, about 15,000 Copts convert to Islam every year. Some 300,000 Lebanese Christians have left their country since the 1970s, without hope of returning. And how many Christians will be left in Bethlehem in a few years?"

Clearly, the church leaders know that the pressures on the Christians in the region are strictly Islamic. In Israel the number of Christians has more than quadrupled since the establishment of the state. But the church leaders are obviously intimidated enough by the threat and practice of violence to believe that, by joining the Moslem campaign against what Yasser Arafat calls "the Judaization of Jerusalem," they will placate their nemeses.

Regrettably, American church leaders - pressed by their Middle Eastern colleagues -

have now joined in this campaign. (Most of the Protestant denominations, to their credit, have kept away from the initiative, and the evangelical churches are more supportive of Israel than ever. But they have virtually no flocks in the region.)

It is not a new campaign. Launched by Arafat more than a decade ago in an effort to achieve Christian support, it has included the ludicrous attempt to "de-Judaize" Jesus and "Palestinize" him. As a Jordanian TV production once put it, "The Jews murdered Jesus, the Palestinian prophet." Presumably educated Palestinian Arab Christians like PLO official Hanan Ashrawi have made the intelligence-insulting claim that they can trace their ancestry to the first Christians. Arafat, who never fails to mention churches as well as mosques as the edifices on which the Palestinian flag will be hoisted when Jerusalem becomes the Palestinian capital, has described the Apostle Paul as "a Palestinian who defied Rome."

It may be prudent for the church leaders to recall some recent history. After the eastern part of Jerusalem fell to the Arab Legion in 1948, the Jordanian administration began a process of Islamization of the Christian Quarter of the Old City. This included a ban on Christian purchase of real estate, strict control of charitable and educational institutions, compulsory closure of schools on Moslem holy days, a curriculum of Moslem teachings, and the building of mosques next to churches to prevent Christian expansion.

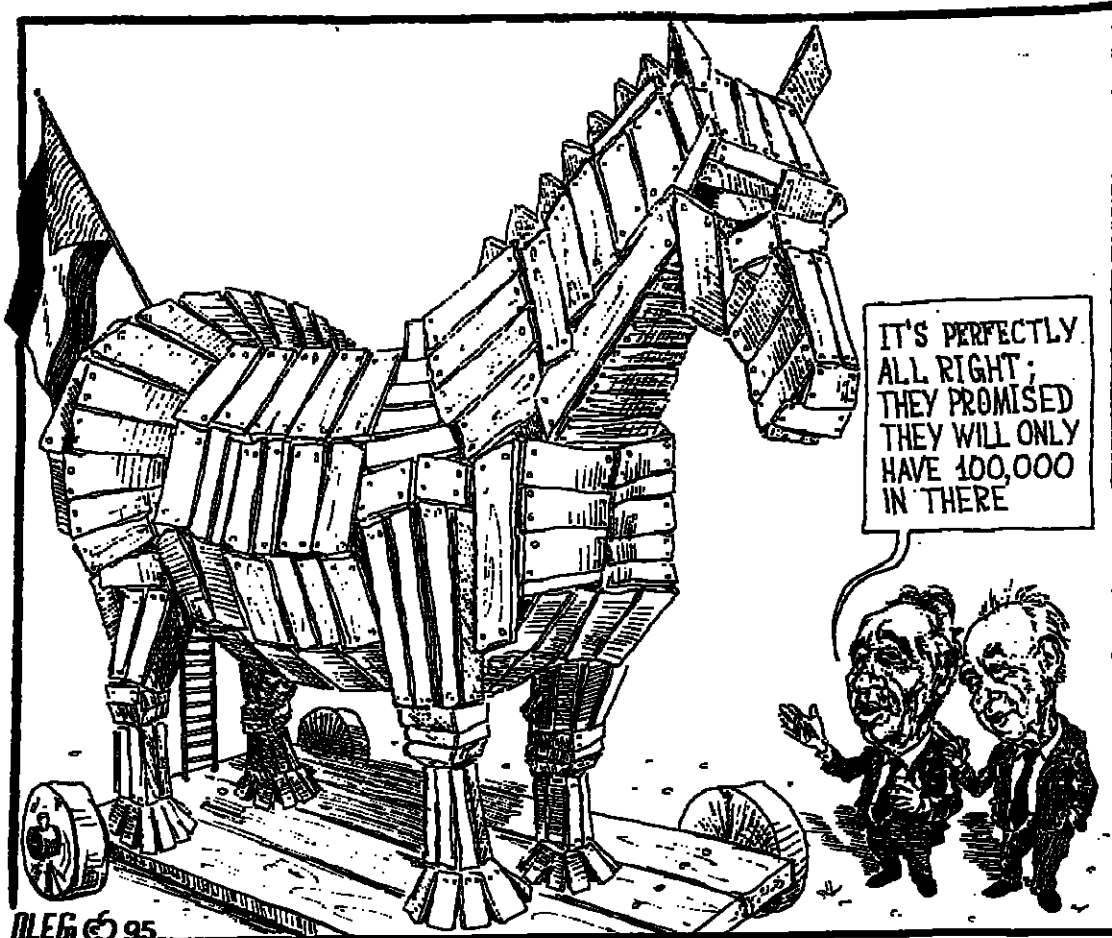
Since 1967, Christian religious sites and cemeteries have been desecrated. Slogans like "Islam will win" and "First the Saturday people then the Sunday people" have been painted on walls, PLO flags draped over crosses, and a PLO flag was painted on one of the domes of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

In the Bethlehem area, intimidation prevented Christian families from celebrating Christmas and Easter during the intifada. Christian shops which remained open despite the threats were set on fire, and a 64-year-old Christian pilgrim was murdered by an Arab youth near Manger Square.

By pointing to Israel's "expansion" in Jerusalem rather than at the prospect of Moslem domination as the threat to Christians and the Christian holy places, the American church leaders are continuing a tradition of appeasement. The very same churches which have not raised their voices against the persecution and murder of Christians in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, and the Sudan joined the pope in opposing the world community's intervention against Saddam Hussein. That they have chosen the path of Israel-baiting can only lead to the sad conclusion that it is not courage and morality which rule in some of today's churches, but unprincipled, abject cowardice.

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Dust gets in your eyes

WHAT is all this nonsense the public is being fed about a mysterious bomb engineer, a mastermind on the loose around Hebron? The impression seems to be that all we have to do is catch this super-brain and terrorist attacks will cease.

That's just as misleading as claiming that the sole reason for our failure to halt terrorism is the impossibility of stopping suicide bombers.

His voice filled with indignation, the veteran Israeli security expert, a man who has fought terror for most of his adult life, told us: "The public is having dust thrown in its eyes. The traditional belief is that our intelligence community is invincible and hence sacred, and so it is never challenged, even when it makes mistakes."

"People accept the super-engineer theory because they know nothing about bomb-making," said our source. "Look, I can show you how to make a bomb - suicide-type or any other - in five minutes. You can become an expert by fitting two switches instead of one, so that you don't blow yourself up by accident."

"So much for this 'Einstein' they claim they are searching for here and everywhere. And if he is so important, why haven't they caught him anyway?" There is no difference, our source said, between a terrorist who plants a bomb on a bus or in a supermarket and walks away and one who ties a bomb to his body and becomes part of it.

"This kind of terrorist has been turned into a heroic figure, a myth, and called invincible. Dead, yes. But invincible? No more than any other terrorist."

Explaining the nature of "true" suicide bombers, the veteran expert recalled the Japanese kamikaze pilots in World War II.

"That's a totally different story," he said. "They were highly trained, skilled individuals, used because Tokyo had no other way of stopping American battleships sailing to conquer their homeland."

"But the Americans didn't cave in and offer Japan California as appeasement after a couple of kamikaze actions succeeded. They settled the matter by dropping atomic bombs on Japan." Naturally, our source said, the situation today in Israel isn't comparable. But the lesson is clear: When you're being attacked mercilessly, you can't give in. You must hit back - hard.

All the stories about a super-bomb-maker and unstoppable suicide fanatics are nothing more

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

than a smoke screen erected by the intelligence community to hide major failures. The bombers and the bomb-maker are merely the tip of the iceberg. Underneath lies a ramified terror network.

INTELLIGENCE work requires a massive effort to find the source of explosives, where they are stored, and how they are carried to points all over the country.

The terrorists themselves must do painstaking detective work be-

Israeli intelligence isn't doing enough to trap the 'invincible' suicide bombers

fore deciding where to carry out an attack. This requires hundreds of informers employed to spot weak points where "enemy" snipers are lax. A terror group needs to gather precise details: where soldiers congregate, on what days, where their major assembly points are, where they are most crowded and vulnerable. Then they need to decide where to hide their bombs and which cars to steal to deliver the goods. All this requires a skilled organizational effort.

Our source talked about the psychological aspect. "Terrorists want to know what will happen if they are caught. If it means 20 or 30 years, or even a life in prison, plus the houses of their families being blown up, very few will actively cooperate. I know that from first-hand experience. But risks become acceptable when there is a belief that they will be freed soon, as frequently happens."

To run an intelligence service efficiently, according to this expert, there is no need to waste time reading books on the motivation of suicide bombers, or hunting super-engineers hiding out in underground bunkers in Kalkiya and, more recently, in Gaza.

Many more people must be recruited to intelligence work than are recruited now, the expert continued. They must be diverted from army service. In any event, he said, we have been told that the army has enough fighting men.

You can't ask soldiers to guard other soldiers at assembly points, on buses or in schools, he pointed out. Soldiers are trained as fight-

ers, not security personnel. Take a place like Beit Lid (and some 40 others like it), he said. How much would it cost to get one or two well-trained security men sitting in an office with cameras and other electronic equipment, watching carefully what is happening down below? Such people would know what to look for, and react accordingly - and promptly.

"We must put a priority on protecting Israelis above all else," said this man and others connected with intelligence issues that we spoke to. Everything possible must be done to stop violence, whoever the perpetrators are.

"Far too much time and energy was wasted on the recent Edri case and the so-called settlers' underground movement a few years ago. Hundreds of hours were spent tracking settlers' every movement, waiting for them to act. How simple it would have been to give the people involved a quiet warning, right at the beginning. It would have stopped them immediately."

Said another man involved in intelligence work: "The government now admits that Yasser Arafat may not be capable of stopping terrorist attacks, that he might not even want to. This means we must rethink the whole concept of Oslo. It has no divine force, after all."

Nor can we assume that if there have been no terrorist attacks since Beit Lid, this means "that Arafat has managed to bring Hamas under control." The intelligence services themselves admit as much.

Again and again Israelis have been told that Hamas is gathering strength, organizing and increasing its hold over the entire Moslem population. Hamas needs dead Israelis to maintain its momentum. Palestinians in Gaza and the territories make a joke out of fanciful tales of Hamas activists being arrested by Arafat's police. Their mockery is open.

If anything, Arab terrorists are encouraged by signs of Israeli surrender. This week's talks, involving Israeli officials, about allowing vast numbers of Arabs who fled in the Six Day War to return is a sure sign to both Arafat and Hamas that the more Jews killed, the bigger the rewards.

This can only strengthen the terrorist movements - and make the task of security all the more difficult.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

Bully boys

ESTHER HERTZOG

THE "Adi Tzema affair" exploded in the media amid a growing debate over sexist slurs against women by men in senior positions.

Who can forget Col. Gershon Hacohen's astonishing "whores" remark, or President Weizman calling Science Minister Shulamit Aloni "an old bag" and a few other things so disrespectful that the media didn't dare report them? Then there was Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, who slammed MK Esther Salmovitz for "prostitute-like behavior," while she was acting Knesset speaker.

Most reminiscent of the Tzema affair is the recent scandal over Rafik Haj Yihya, mayor of Taibe, who reportedly admitted to a *Ha'aretz* journalist that he had used "physical means" against his wife.

Violence against women has become the subject of endless articles and talk shows. Can that be anything but a giant advance in the battle by and on behalf of women?

The answer seems to be yes. Amid all the talk, there has been little real action. And some people in high positions are even attempting to throttle the debate, waving the banner of "rights of the individual," and trumpeting Tami Tzema's "right to privacy."

Aloni, interviewed last week in Netanya, demanded an end to the "lynch" against the notorious philosophy professor. And radio jour-

Wife abuse: privacy vs. public interest

nalist Edna Pe'er went so far as to warn the "petty lynchers" that their actions could lead other battered women to suffer in silence, from fear of the harm publicity could cause them and their children.

THE IMPLICATION seems to be that if violence against women isn't publicized, it will magically stop. Unfortunately, this optimism isn't borne out by the facts.

Adi Tzema humiliated some of his women students - he told one who complained that a book cost too much to go into the streets and "earn" the money to buy it - but it was hushed up. That didn't cause him to turn over a new leaf.

His wife's reservations about all the media attention, some of it sensational, is understandable. But surely the publicity is a far better guarantor of her husband's future good behavior toward her than silence and secrecy would have been? In her report to the police, she said she had suffered "serious injury" from her husband.

Tami Tzema rejected the large groundswell of support that was forming in the wake of revelations of the abuse she had suffered, support that would likely have encouraged many battered women to come forward, in spite of their social circumstances. She could have set a shining example to those women, and been a warning to the violent men in their lives. And, in the glare of the limelight, the police and the courts would have had to think about brushing up their act.

On the radio this week, legal expert Moshe Negbi gave an unequivocal answer to the privacy/publicity question. A violent act is a criminal act, he said, and as such is of public interest and cannot be kept quiet.

The paramount concern here isn't the public's "right to know." It is women's right to live in safety. And bringing wife abuse out into the open can only serve to protect women at risk from violent partners.

There is no justification in citing the "privacy" argument as an excuse to end the public debate and remove the spotlight from "closed" units like the family, the kibbutz, the haredi community, and the Arab sector.

Silence may salvage the pride of both abuser and victim; but this, surely, is an unacceptable price to pay for continuing and increased vulnerability to violent male domination.

Bullies prey on the weak and defenseless. Whatever strength women can amass, individually and collectively, will act as a deterrent to those who would abuse them.

The writer lectures on sociology and anthropology at Beit Berl College in Kfar Sava.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ADVICE TO TOURISTS

Sir, - On March 6, you published a letter from Walter Rosen of New York under the heading, "Advice to tourists." In it, he quotes a telephone conversation which he claims took place between Minister Shulamit Aloni and a Manhattan UJA leader and in the course of which the minister allegedly advised tourists not to visit Israel (following the Beit Lid attack).

This conversation never took place. The words attributed to the minister were never uttered. Not only did she never say them, but they are diametrically opposed to her views on the subject, namely that Israel is one of the safest countries in the world for visitors and residents alike. It is a country good to live in and safe and beautiful to visit. Only a mistake or evil intent could have attributed the alleged quotation to Minister Aloni.

LEA LIEBERMAN-BENDER,
Media Adviser to the Minister of Communications, Science and Arts
Jerusalem.

GOVERNMENT PLOY

Sir, - Last summer, about a dozen people were arrested with banner headlines and photographs screaming "Jewish terrorist underground!" In the end, not a single charge of conspiracy of terrorism was upheld against anyone. After lengthy interrogations and jail, everyone was released.

There was no "terrorist underground." It was all a government ploy to undermine the position of Israeli citizens who live in Yeshu.

Incredibly, "K" the person responsible for this outrage against democracy, has become the head of the GSS - Israel's "secret service." In any other civilized country, he and the minister of police would be forced to resign immediately, along with anyone else responsible for it. Have we taken a giant step towards a police state?

MOSHE DANN
Jerusalem.

PROTECTION FOR TAXI DRIVERS

Sir, - I recently read about the demonstration of several dozen taxi drivers, demanding additional security measures for taxi-cabs.

One of the drivers quoted stated that without protection, the drivers were easy targets. He also added that he wanted protection "like in New York." That line struck me; whenever anyone expresses a concern about visiting Israel for safety reasons, I always tell them that if they can survive living in New York City, they can make it anywhere.

Then again, there are measures that we all take to protect ourselves, and in New York City government, we are especially aware of taking those opportunities. The Taxi and Limousine Commission, the regulatory agency of the New York taxi industry, has mandated several measures to protect both the taxi driver and passenger.

Bullet-proof barriers can be found between the front and back seat of every New York City medallion cab, with an opening for sliding fare through to the driver. Each cab must also post its identifying medallion number as well as a current photo of the driver. If the photo doesn't match the driver, passengers know not to get into the taxi.

These are two simple measures that protect drivers and riders. I would urge the Israeli taxi industry to create similar regulations; we don't want any more Rafi Cohens.

COUNCILMAN NOACH DEAR,
Chairman
New York City Council
Transportation Committee
New York.

HENRY PURCELL

Sir, - May I correct Michael Ajzenstadt's statement in *Critic's* choice of March 5 concerning a concert in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of Henry Purcell's birth: 1995 is the commemoration of the year of his death.

NOMI KALISCH
Netanya.

DISCRIMINATION

Sir, - So Helen Golan (Readers' Letters, March 1) approves of "housing monitoring committees" to keep the riffraff out of haredi neighborhoods. The idea smacks of the *Judenrein* policies of the Nazis, or even closer in time, the recently abandoned apartheid policy in South Africa.

Golan further compounds her offensive attitude, and displays deplorable ignorance, by including homosexuality as one of the "calamities" to be avoided. Gay men and women are living quietly among us as law-abiding citizens, and their presence is neither a scourge nor a calamity. Helen Golan and others may want to know the only way to guarantee that they will not have gay children is to make sure that they never give birth at all. Discriminating against the neighbors has nothing to do with it.

JONATHAN DANILOWITZ
Tel Aviv.

TV LISTINGS

Sir, - Quite by chance, one Saturday evening at 8:30 I tuned in to TV Channel 3; to my delight I watched an episode of *Yes Minister*.

Seemingly, during some evenings, when the third channel is not covering debates at the Knesset, programs of interest are screened. Presumably the third channel schedules these additional programs at least a week in advance and details could be made available to *The Jerusalem Post*.

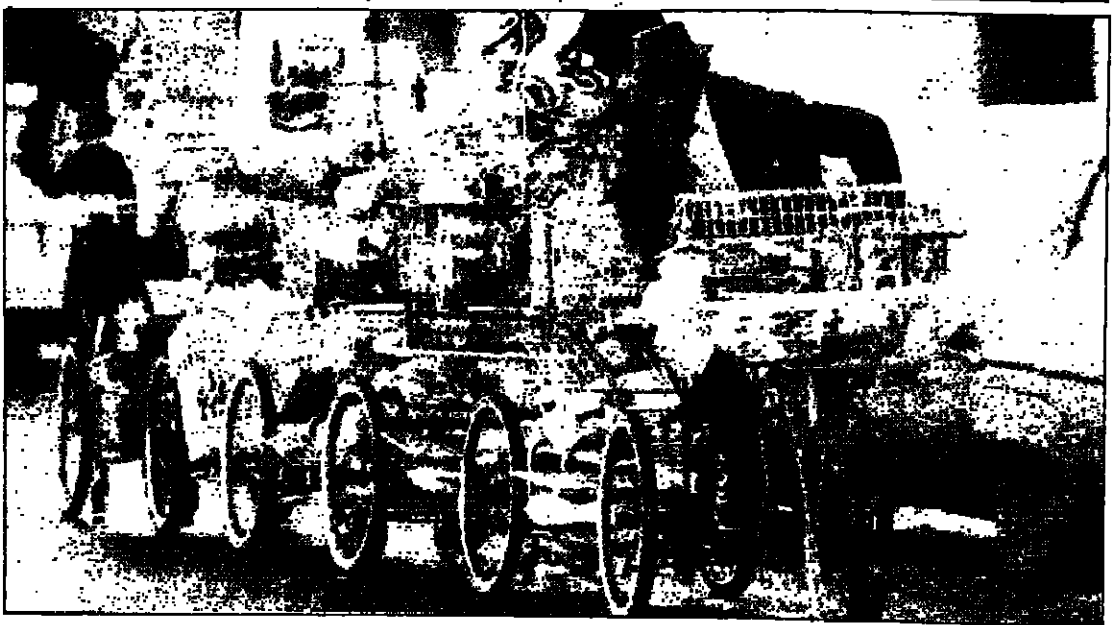
Would it be possible for you to publish this schedule in your weekly *Time Out* supplement?

The BBC World Television Service screens a number of interesting programs, in addition to their hourly world news. Could you publish details of these programs as well?

ELLIS WYNNICK
Rehovot.

We are planning to expand our *Time Out* supplement, at which time we may have the space necessary for these additional listings. - Ed. J.P.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Herbert Perry maneuvers his 13-wheeled mobile mini-mart through the streets of Chicago. The 54-year-old mogul sells such items as socks, wallets, cassettes and incense. "Every time I see it, it just amazes me more and more," says Nelson Ware, a customer of Perry's.

مركز التجميل

Go to join your husband; your child will adapt

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
My husband had to go abroad to work. He's been gone almost half a year. We have a nine-year-old daughter, in the third grade.

We planned to join him later this year, but I'm worried about our relationship, because we are far apart. So I'm considering going now. Should I take my daughter out of school in the middle of the year? Or should I sacrifice seeing my husband?

Another thing is bothering me: I want another child, but my husband doesn't seem interested. What shall I do?

Oceans Apart and Anxious
Eilat

Dear Apart and Anxious,
Taking your daughter out of school in the middle of the year is not the end of the world. She will have to adjust to a new school next year, anyway.

Unless she has exceptional difficulty adjusting to new surroundings, you should base your decision on whether you can stand another half-year away from your husband. If you are genuinely worried about the relationship suffering as a result of your separation, then consider joining him now.

The issue of having another baby will have to be postponed, in any case, until you and your husband are reunited. After you move, you, too, will be adjusting to new surroundings.

You will have to readjust to living as a couple again. It might be inappropriate to get pregnant right away.

Once settled abroad as a family, however, your husband might view the prospect of another child differently.

Dear Ruthie,
This winter, my wife and I have been coming down periodically with various "bugs." This may sound weird, but it has put a real strain on our marriage. We end up arguing over who feels worse (especially when it comes to tak-

ing care of our two-year-old son), and even when it comes to taking care of one another. We can't stop bickering. I just don't know what to do.

Virus Vexed
Hod Hasharon

Dear VV,
Competition about which of you is more ill, and thus more deserving of consideration, is no different from many other marital squabbles. "Scorekeeping" is always a recipe for failure, if not disaster. Admittedly, having a toddler doesn't help, since being sick makes parenting that much more arduous.

When you both feel better, you should sit down together and examine the root of your inability to "take turns" being needy. If this difficulty arose when you were ill, it was probably there before, albeit cloaked differently. If so, you have identified a part of your marriage that needs work.

Dear Ruthie,
A close friend is about to leave her husband. I think she's making a terrible mistake. I've tried to tell her this, but she is not receptive. Is it my place to make a stronger effort to prevent a good friend from walking head-on into what I believe is disaster?

Fearful Friend
Jerusalem

Dear FF,
As a good friend, it is your place to listen, not to preach. If she asks your advice, offer it. Keep in mind, though, that she may not accept it, or at least, not all of it. Often, advice is solicited as a way of examining as many sides of an issue as possible.

Your prediction of disaster may not be fulfilled; you may not be aware of all the factors behind your friend's decision to leave her husband.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received).

BOOKS

LEON FORREST

THE WEDDING by Dorothy West. Doubleday. \$28. 240 pp.

MANY seasons back, a highly placed socialite of Creole extraction ("bright, light and damn near white," as the saying went) was explaining why a certain talented, fair-skinned Negro lady just could not, and would not fit into "my social circle; we just can't do anything with her socially."

The refined Creole matron explained: "You see, Leon, she's a white man's child," which meant that this lady's parents—given the laws against intermarriage in the South—were not married. The lady was not only a bastard: She was also engaged to a dark-skinned gentleman, whose features were "less than Greek." To marry a dark-skinned man or woman was a cardinal sin.

It was also a sin to marry a white man, or woman. Upon the rickety ladder of Negro social respectability and position, there were certain immutable laws for mulattoes, quadroons, blacks and others.

Few writers know the hard realities of black miscegenation and cultural assimilation better than Dorothy West, the legendary writer of the Harlem Renaissance, still alive and going strong at 88. In *The Wedding*, her first published novel since the 1948 printing of *The Living Is Easy*, she deftly satirizes the black Boston elite.

The Wedding is a novel of manners, set in the early 1950s but mainly going back in time. Yet West has cast her drama on the cutting edge of American history: in the last gasps of the old traditions, less than a decade before the rise of the black consciousness movement and the attempt to shed the shackles of "exquisite brightness and color-struck madness."

West has continued a tradition started in the Harlem Renaissance of revealing how much of the soul of the African-American race is being lost to the plague of color and caste. The Renaissance sought a return to the spirituality of the Southern Negro ethos: to sing work-songs and the blues, and to preserve certain African traditions.

Jean Toomer's *Cane*—the finest novel of the Renaissance—seethes with issues of class and



In the Deep South, Negroes made social laws for blacks, mulattoes, quadroons and others; the old traditions lasted until just before the rise of the black consciousness movement. (UPI)

social status based on the motifs of color and beauty, baseness and refinement. West's novel shows why the "black is beautiful" slogan emerged from the depths of suppression.

In *The Wedding*, Dr. Clark Coles and his wife Corinne have flourished socially, but not privately. They exist on the tiny, isolated strip of land occupied by pompous upper-crust, fair-skinned Negroes on the skirts of Martha's Vineyard that West calls (as if to parody Fitzgerald's "East Egg" in *The Great Gatsby*) "The Oval."

The Coleses' daughters have elected to be the breakers of fiercely held traditions. The older girl, Liz, has married a dark-skinned black. However, she is saved from social oblivion be-

cause he is a physician. Liz's younger sister Shelby is about to upstage her sibling's outrage by marrying a white jazz musician, Meade Wyler. We are 24 hours from the wedding bells.

If this isn't socially unsettling enough, a successful furniture-maker, who is dark-skinned and frantic for a social entree, has recently taken a summer cabin within The Oval. He is the father of several daughters by white women he has scorned or divorced. Lute McNeil emerges as a wanna-be suitor for Shelby.

He has sold himself on the idea that final social acclaim lies with marrying (or is it bedding down?) Shelby Cole, who is fair enough to pass for white. We have the material, then, of a taboo-breaking opera, a tragic love story.

Yet West abruptly breaks away from the well-crafted early structure of her novel, and takes the reader into a long, galloping tale of the Old South and miscegenation, with the intrigue of Shelby's parents' bloodlines as its center. All of this goes on much too long, and we really do hunger for West to reroute this saga and get us to the church (and the wedding) on time.

West rounds up her cast of characters in the last third of the novel, wherein we discover that Clark Coles is actually a very unhappy man on the day before his daughter's wedding.

He has suffered through a marriage arranged around class and color, but not love. He has kept a beautiful, deep-brown-skinned mistress to help him make it

through the night, over most of the years of his marriage.

A day before the nuptials, Coles receives notification of another wedding. His mistress Rachel (who has also worked as his nurse and assistant) pens him a letter revealing that by time he receives her "Dear John" missive, she will be married to someone else. Tired of playing "the other woman," Rachel is wedding a common city worker, not particularly for love, but for security.

This crushing epistle drives Coles into a confessional tirade with his daughter Shelby, in which old dad acknowledges "Meade's love" for his daughter and then accuses her of never getting serious about any black men.

"I can't help but think that maybe that's because the man who should be the most important man in your life never found time to show you the love he felt. I've never seen you give your respect to a black man, and I can't help but think that maybe that's some warped extension of this family's social snobbery. And if that's all true... then I will do anything in my power to make sure this marriage does not happen."

Following hot on the heels of her father's departure is a letter from Lute McNeil (who has been missing in action for nearly 200 pages). Lute tries to arrange a rendezvous with the bride-to-be. We are informed that Lute's "been stalking Shelby all summer."

Because all this occurs so late in the book, we are a little unsettled (though not shocked) by the sudden turn of events. We are aware that Shelby protests too much about her racial loyalties despite the fact that she is marrying a white man.

Lute captures some of her dilemma, and maybe his Shelby in her natural solar plexus when he says:

"You're on the brink of turning your back on your family, your community, your race, all for some white-bread fantasy you don't half understand."

This is a good bit of dramatic irony, for Lute's words reflect the life he has lived.

Lute really is something of an African-American *Great Gatsby*.

His role in the novel's last phases, harks directly back to Fitzgerald's masterpiece of the heartbreak of upward mobility. (Los Angeles Times)

Fed up with nail-scarred walls? Hang your pictures from rails

FIX IT YOURSELF
TAL KATZ

HANGING pictures, usually the last task in a new or freshly painted apartment, ties even decisive people into knots.

It's hard enough trying to figure out the right place for each picture. If you change your mind after you've drilled a hole or hammered a nail, or get new furniture and need to move pictures, you're stuck with a scarred wall until the next paint job.

One solution is to put up a rail from which pictures can be suspended. This will allow you to move them to your heart's content without marring the wall.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

One aluminum curtain rail (mesila levilon); plastic "eyes" (galgalim lamesila shel havilon) that slide onto the rail (costing about 10 agorot per unit, but NIS 2 for a package of 50 in a chain hardware store); a spool of

fishing line (hut dayagim)—check the label to see the weight it is meant for; drill + 3 or 4 mm metal bit (makde'ah barzel) and 6 mm masonry bit (makde'ah vidda); anchors (dibbelim) and screws (bragim) to fit the 6 mm bit; screwdriver; tape measure; a thin sharpened pencil; scissors.

Curtain rails can be purchased at curtain/fabric shops or do-it-yourself hardware stores. They come in six-meter lengths (about NIS 8 per meter) and can be cut at the shop to any measurement.

If your rail is to be wall-to-wall, allow for 1-2 cm access on either end for insertion of plastic eyes (that is, subtract 2-4 cm from the measurement of the wall).

On a long wall, using two rails with a space in between will make hanging the pictures easier.

Rails come in natural aluminum color, gold or white. They can be painted over with regular wall paint for camouflage.

DIRECTIONS

Using the metal bit, drill holes into the smooth side of the rail (at the point at which its opposite

side has a "crevice"), one hole at either end of the rail and the others at intervals not exceeding 80 cm. Drilling can be done on the floor. To avoid damage to the floor, place a piece of wood under the rail while drilling.

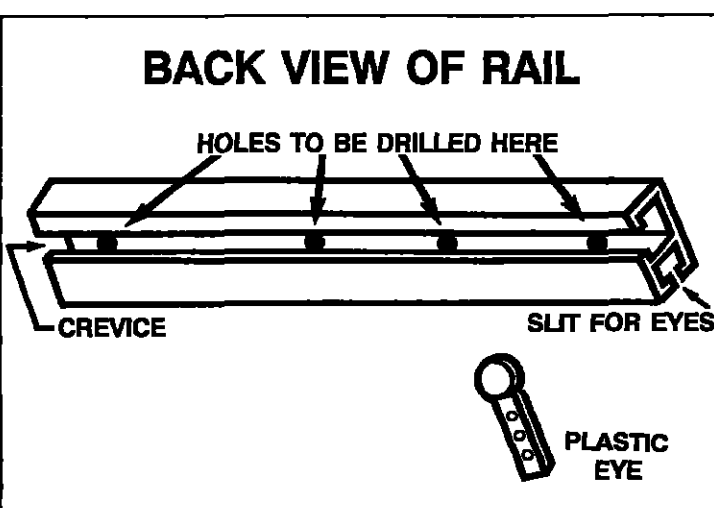
If you want the rail to be near the ceiling, allow for the size of the drill. The drill must be horizontal while working. Hold it as if to begin drilling, and measure the distance from the ceiling to the bit.

Mark with a pencil. Measure the distance from the end of the rail to the first hole.

Measure the distance from the edge of the wall to the rod. The sum of these two will give you the horizontal mark made in the previous step. Mark with a pencil.

Using the masonry bit, drill a hole into the spot you've just marked. Use the hammer mode on the drill only if the bit doesn't enter the wall smoothly. (The hole should be about 1/2 cm deeper than its intended anchor.)

Insert an anchor into the hole, tapping gently with the handle of



the screwdriver until it's completely inserted.

Hold the rail flat against the wall so that the "slit" for the eyes is pointing downwards, and the wider "crevice" is facing the wall.

Align the first hole with the anchored hole on the wall. Insert a screw loosely into the anchor (through the rail).

If the rail is long, you will now

need assistance. Get someone to hold the rail at its unattached end against the wall, keeping it level and flat against the wall. With the pencil, trace the rest of the holes of the rail onto the wall. Remove the screw, and put the rail aside.

Your wall should now have one anchor, and a horizontal row of circular pencil markings.

With the masonry bit, drill

each subsequent hole exactly as you did the first. Insert anchors.

Place the rail on the wall (again making sure that the "slit" for the eyes is pointing downwards, and the "crevice" is against the wall), aligning its holes with the anchors. Insert screws with the screwdriver.

Slide plastic eyes onto the rail from the edge. The top of the eye has a bulging circular tip which fits into the "slit" of the rail. Use twice as many eyes as pictures to be hung.

Cut as many pieces of fishing line as there are eyes. The pieces should be way too long (to allow leeway for tying and adjusting). The excess can be cut later.

Each eye has three tiny holes from top to bottom. Tie the fishing line only to the top or middle hole.

As nylon thread tends to come undone, tie at least four knots tightly, or any strong type of "Boy Scout" knot.

Now you should have a hori-

zontal rail on the wall with single pieces of fishing line dangling downwards.

Each pair of threaded eyes will hold a picture. (If the picture is very heavy, use heavier fishing line, and attach it to two or three eyes on each side.)

Most pictures have metal hooks on the back through which is tied some kind of string or wire for hanging. You don't have to remove the wire. Just use the hooks when attaching the fishing line.

After determining the desired spot and height of the picture to be hung, tie the first one piece of fishing line to one hook on the picture, and then its counterpart.

Before tying tightly (again, several knots), adjust. Remove excess line with scissors.

Repeat for each picture.

If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to annoying problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.



Stories and songs on videocassette for the entire family with Chaim Topol and Hanny Nachmias. Traditional and contemporary Shabbat songs and stories have been adapted with modern arrangements in this delightful program for all ages. Includes *Lecha Dodi*, *Shalom Aleichem*, *Hinei Ma Tov*, *Yedid Nefesh* and twenty others. Songs in Hebrew, narrative in English. Produced by Scopus Films.

JP Price NIS 49.00 ea.

To: The J.P. Video Collection, POB 81 Jerusalem 91000, Tel. 02-241282

Please send me Shalom Shabbat. Enclosed is my check for NIS 49.00 ea. payable to The Jerusalem Post. Credit card orders accepted by phone.

System: ☐ VHS-PAL (English) ☐ VHS-PAL (Hebrew) ☐ VHS-NTSC (English)

☐ For overseas airmail please add NIS 12.00 per tape.

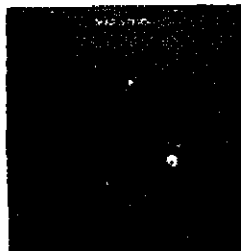
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Contemporary music inspired by the Bible... a dramatic portrayal of Moses' invocation to heaven and earth. "Authentic and original—a product of here and now, a living expression that is possible only in Israel." Featuring contrabassist Gary Karr in the world premiere performance with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Arthur Fagan. AAD, 73:10 min. Regular Price NIS 59.00. JP Price NIS 49.00 ea.

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Please list gift recipients' names on separate piece of paper.

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The Melting Pot
A quick and easy blend of Israeli cuisine for home chefs who hate to fuss yet want to make mealtime a savory experience. Hardcover, with color photography. By Lehman-Wizig & Blum.

JP Price: NIS 42.00 for both

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THE JOY OF ISRAEL
112 simple, yet different recipes from the kitchens of the many excellent cooks who have settled in the Land of Israel. Softcover, top spiral bound, 6th ed., 128 pp. By Friesem & Horreich.

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Tel. 02-241282

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1995

Foreign currency borrowing in '95 soars to \$1.7b.

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE public borrowed \$1.7 billion in foreign currency to cash in on high shekel interest rates in the past two months, according to the Bank of Israel's Supervisor of Foreign Currency annual report issued yesterday.

The increase in foreign currency credit reflected the large difference between interest rates here and abroad and the public's perception that the risk of a shekel devaluation was low.

Throughout 1994, foreign currency borrowing jumped to \$2b. compared with only \$100 million in the previous year.

By contrast, foreigners avoided investing in shekel-denominated interest-bearing instruments, concluding that the devaluation risk was higher than the margin between shekel and foreign interest rates.

Foreigners' net investment in local securities totaled \$200m. last year. Financial and capital investments by foreigners exceeded Israeli investment abroad by \$439m., a 303% increase from the previous year.

Despite the increase in last year's trade deficit, the private non-banking sector financed the foreign currency gap, including \$3.8b. in unilateral transfers and \$2.4b. in foreign credit. As a result, private sector financing shot up 67.6 percent over 1993.

The government's net external debt rose by \$2b., mostly due to the use of US loan guarantee funds.

Both banks and institutional investors reduced their investments abroad, as foreign investments made up only 0.6% of their assets compared with 1.5% in 1993 and 2.1% in 1992.

Court cancels restraining order for Shipyard's sale to SKO Car Workers protest against continued privatization

Post Business Staff

TEL Aviv District Court President Dr. Eliyahu Winograd canceled the temporary restraining order completing the sale of Israel Shipyard to the SKO Car group yesterday.

After the announcement, which allows for the privatization of the company to proceed, Shipyard employees blocked the factory's entrance, burned tires, and stopped work.

The workers even threatened to burn or release the firm's prototype of the Shaldag, its new

ship model. The failure of the company to sell even one Shaldag is considered to be a main reason for recent Shipyard losses.

The restraining order had been granted at the end of February following a request by Admiral Shipping and Investment, the other group bidding for Shipyard. The group claimed that its second round bid was higher than SKO Car's bid, and since the round operated under a "best

and final" principle, Admiral was entitled to purchase Shipyard.

In a third round of bidding, SKO Car's NIS 40 million offer was NIS 7m. higher than Admiral's.

In their response to the court, SKO Car claimed that it won the bid fairly, and Admiral's "best and final" claim was not valid.

The state also told the court that it supported SKO Car's position, and that a "best and final" principle was never mentioned, which is why Admiral agreed to a third round of bidding.

Shohat adopts free voucher plan

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday announced that he has adopted the recommendations to distribute free vouchers to the public for the purchase of state-owned companies and banks, and that the cabinet will consider the proposal on Sunday.

A committee headed by Finance Ministry director-general

David Brodet to study the possibility of distributing shares of state-owned companies presented Shohat his recommendations at the end of last month.

Under the plan, the government will distribute free vouchers worth between NIS 400 and

NIS 600 that could be sold on the stock market or be used to purchase a package of shares of firms that are being privatized.

Everyone included in the voter registry - about 3 million citizens - will be entitled to receive the free vouchers for the purchase of a package of about NIS 2,000 worth of shares.

'Check investment request fraud'

EVELYN GORDON

A PARLIAMENTARY committee of inquiry should be set up to investigate the fraudulent acquisition of grants from the Industry Ministry's investment center between 1985 and 1991, MK Shlomo Buhbut (Labor) demanded yesterday.

Buhbut has not yet submitted a formal proposal for such a committee, because new Labor faction rules require him to get prior approval from the faction before making such a motion.

"However, the Knesset yesterday voted 10-2 to refer the general issue of the fraudulent grant requests to the Finance Committee for further discussion.

"I am talking about acts of fraud [which have cost] billions of dollars," Buhbut told the Knesset. "When public money is involved, a wide-reaching investi-



Buhbut: Billions of dollars of fraud have been perpetrated by investors. (Israel Talby)

gation is required, and not just a discussion in the Finance Com-

mittee. Billions of dollars... is no laughing matter."

Buhbut said acts of fraud had been perpetrated by numerous investors, in two different ways. In some cases, investors presented plans with exaggeratedly high costs and submitted fictitious receipts. For instance, he said, some demanded - and got - grants based on a building cost of up to \$1,280 per square meter, when the actual costs were only some \$300 per sq. m.

In other cases, investors took the grant money and never even built the factory for which it was earmarked. The investment center knows of some \$300 million stolen from it in this fashion, which it has been unable to recover, he said.

Altogether, Buhbut said, plans worth \$6.5 billion were approved by the center between 1985 and 1991, each of which was eligible for grants of up to 38%.

Migdal's SOS policy: In search of travelers

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MIGDAL Insurance Company has established an SOS insurance policy, which is intended to locate and rescue Israeli travelers missing abroad. According to the firm, this is the first policy of its kind offered here.

The policy includes sending a professional search team abroad to track down missing Israeli travelers. The policy, which costs \$2.50 per day, will be available at the end of the month.

Migdal general manager Uzi Levy said the plan offers a professional service to the families of young people who take extended trips to such distant locations as the Far East, South America, and Africa.

He said Migdal spent a number months working on the develop-

ment of the policy.

According to Levy, more than 30,000 young people travel for extended periods of time to distant locations each year. He said some of them lose contact with their families during the course of their travels, and some are killed in disasters.

Levy said Migdal contacted former General Security Service agents, Tuvia Livneh and Yisrael Shai, who were involved in planning security and searching for missing people. They currently head an international investigation, guide, and professional security firm.

Migdal said the company has agreed to locate policy holders who are missing overseas.

Self-employed group fights for income tax cuts

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Bureau of Organizations for the Self-Employed yesterday launched a campaign to cut individual income taxes by NIS 4 billion until 1997.

Bureau president Moshe Kur-nick called for "a fight against the heavy tax burden, which leads to a lack of economic activity."

According to him, marginal tax rates, including the health and National Insurance Institute (NII) taxes, reach 55% for indi-

viduals with a gross monthly income of NIS 6,100. This seriously reduces the incentive to expand a small business or to work overtime, he said.

Kurnick said the program was "minimalistic" since it relies on tax cuts of NIS 2.4b., which the government has already approved for 1996 and 1997, and only requires an additional bud-

get reduction of NIS 300 million to start phasing-in the tax cut in July.

The remaining NIS 1.3b. of the tax reduction will come from higher tax revenues generated by the lower tax burden.

Should the government adopt the proposal, there would be only four tax brackets by 1997, with the highest marginal rate of 48%. The

lowest bracket of 15% will apply to income of up to NIS 3,000, instead of NIS 2,800 today; 30% for income of up to NIS 10,000, instead of NIS 6,000; and 38% for income of up to NIS 16,000, instead of a rate of 45% for income of up to NIS 11,800.

The bureau presented the proposal last week to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and has sent it to the prime minister and to the Histadrut.

Game teaches players how to avoid AIDS

MARTHA MEISELS

AN original Israeli parlor game designed to teach players how to avoid AIDS was released yesterday by its manufacturer, Regev Games of Kibbutz Regavim near Binyamina.

Medical consultant to the manufacturer was Dr. Shlomo Ma'ayan, director of the AIDS Department at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital.

The game is a variation on Spin-The-Bottle, in which players answer AIDS-related questions printed on cards resembling comic strips. Combining knowledge and luck, the game is intended for four or more players, aged 12 and up. The player holding the least "dangerous behavior cards" at the end of the game is the winner.

In Hebrew, the AIDS game is called *Al Hahaim ve al Hanavot* ("On Life and Death"), while a simultaneously-released English version is entitled *AIDS Counter-AIDS*. It will retail here for NIS 89.

The game was an attention-getter at yesterday's sneak press preview of the forthcoming IsraToys '95 fair, to take place March 20-22 at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds. Entrance is for buyers only.

The local toys-and-games sector is facing a year of uncertainty with the anticipated arrival of American giant Toys 'R Us on the retail scene here this summer, a spokesman for the local toy industry told reporters.

Elbit's '94 profits fall to \$30m. from \$41m.

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELBIT reported a drop in 1994 net profits to \$30 million, from \$40.8m. the previous year.

The company's revenues rose to \$758.4m., from \$600.2m. Earnings per share fell to \$1.57, from \$2.20 in 1993.

The firm said profits were affected by a \$10.2m. charge resulting from Elbit's purchase of Fibronics.

Fourth-quarter profits were \$2.7m., compared with \$11.7m., while earnings per share fell to \$0.13, from \$0.63 in 1993.

Revenues rose to \$248.8m., from \$200.2m. Elron Electronics Industries reported a drop in 1994 net profits to \$6.34m., from \$10.5m., on revenues of \$17.18m., down from \$16.25m. in 1993. Earnings per share fell to \$0.35, from \$0.61 in 1993.

The company registered a

\$5.2m. loss in 1994 due to a merger between its subsidiary Elbit and Fibronics. In the merger, Fibronics shares were converted into Elbit shares at a 20 to 1 ratio.

Fourth-quarter net profits were \$1.1m., or \$0.05 per share, compared with \$2.3m., or \$0.13 per share.

Aggregate revenues of the Elron group reached \$1 billion in 1994, compared with \$800m. the previous year. Elron's share in net profits of affiliated companies fell to \$8m., from \$12.1m. in 1993, primarily due to a write-off related to the Fibronics acquisition.

Clal Health and Recreation Resorts (formerly Assuta) reported a fall in 1994 net profits to NIS 2.8m., from NIS 3.6m. in the previous year. Revenues were NIS 5.3m.

The company, whose main property is Tel Aviv's Assuta Hospital, was taken over by Clal in 1994.

The firm entered into advanced negotiations with Devimco, a subsidiary of the French hotel chain Accor, last month, to establish two joint ventures in hotel management here.

Edumetics reported 1994 net losses of \$6.48m. compared with net profits of \$2.3m. in the previous year. Revenues were \$7.3m. compared with \$10m. in 1993.

The company recorded fourth-quarter losses of \$1.16m. on revenues of \$947,938 compared with \$2m. in the same period in 1993.

R&D costs were \$4.3m. compared with \$2.3m. in 1993. The company is in the process of developing new products and a new operating system which is to be released this September.

All Hapoalim provident funds drop

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim reported yesterday all of its provident funds achieved negative nominal yields last month while United Mizrahi Bank said all but two of its funds recorded negative nominal yields.

Bank Hapoalim's Gadish, the country's largest fund with assets of NIS 12.8 billion, achieved a negative yield of 2.7 percent in February and a negative yield of 2.49% since the start of the year.

Other figures: Bank Hapoalim Compensation, February -2.6%/two months -2.23%; Keren Or, -2.65%/-2.41%; Katzi, -2.58%/-2.38%.

United Mizrahi Bank's Atid, -2.18%/-1.89%; Lior, -2.32%/-1.98%; Tiferet, -2.18%/-1.9%; Compensation Fund, -2.21%/-1.82%.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Teva, MMD sign accord: Teva announced yesterday it has signed a distribution agreement in New York with the US pharmaceutical concern Marion Merrell Dow (MMD) for which Teva has received \$25 million. The joint venture, Teva/Marion Partners, will distribute Copaxone, a drug used in the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. Teva will produce the drug in Israel and sell it in North America through its subsidiary the Lemmon Company.

Jordan's Triangle in joint venture with Hagai: The first joint venture agreement between Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and European Union-based companies was signed this week. Palestinian-owned, Jordanian-based Triangle and Israeli holding group Hagai will market products manufactured by the Spanish concern Inesba, which specializes in technologically advanced paints.

Tenza - a Fairchild Technology Venture has made an additional \$47,750 investment in Plazer for 2.1 percent of outstanding capital share, bringing the fund's total investment in Plazer to \$575,000, or 26% of the company.

Diamond exports up: In the first two months of the year, Israel's diamond exports reached \$728m., 24% higher than the same period in 1994. Exports to Japan have increased by 66% to \$158m., compared with \$95m. last year. US exports were \$363m., 13% higher than last year.

The Postal Authority and Customs Authority have joined forces to speed up the process of releasing imported packages and tied-up bundles from the Tel Aviv customs office. Starting today, packages and bundles valued up to \$100 will be released by a computerized process. For items valued between \$101-\$1,000, customers will have the choice of freeing it from a customs teller in the post office or from the Customs Authority house in Jaffa.

Interest rate policy worsens profitability - poll: An Israel Chambers of Commerce poll of 40 leading managers in 15 industrial sectors has revealed that the current interest rate policy has worsened profitability in 80% of all cases.

Manufacturers Association calls for change in currency basket structure: The Manufacturers Association yesterday called on the Bank of Israel to change the structure of its basket of currencies. The association said the recent plunge of the dollar on world markets shows the basket must be changed. The association said 75% of Israel's total production is in dollars.

WORLD BRIEFS

Volvo posts record earnings: Swedish vehiclemaker AB Volvo posted a record profit of \$2.30 billion yesterday, but Chief Executive Soren Gyll declared he was not satisfied and that margins needed to be higher.

Volvo's pre-tax profit, as well as being the largest it has ever recorded, was a dramatic turnaround from 1993, when the company made a loss of \$371.5 million. Analysts had forecast a pre-tax profit of \$2.24b. for 1994.

German wage deadlock eases: The deadlock in Germany's 1995 wage round began to ease yesterday as several industries reached pay agreements matching Tuesday's benchmark deal for the giant engineering sector.

The insurance and wood processing industries struck deals increasing pay by 4 percent and 3.6 percent respectively, in line with the engineering sector's pay award of around four percent.

But wage bargainers in the important chemical and banking sectors remain at loggerheads, with chemical employers ruling out a 4% rise. Banking workers, meanwhile, see 4% as a minimum.

RTZ Corporation Plc, the world's largest mining company, reported yesterday a huge surge in full-year earnings, fueled by a boom in metal prices and stronger-than-expected worldwide economic growth.

"The biggest single factor is the effect of higher metal prices. It was by far the most dominant influence," said chief executive Robert Wilson at a news conference.

RTZ's net income more than doubled to £612m. from £287m. in 1993.

BAT shows flat '94 profits: British tobacco and insurance giant BAT Industries Plc reported flat 1994 profits of £1.8b. yesterday, hit by US charges and the slide in world investment markets.

Looking ahead, though, BAT moved to re-assure clients in Britain's pensions "mis-selling" scandal and pledged to keep dividend rises well ahead of the rate of inflation.

Britain rapped for planned power generator sell-off: The government came under fire again yesterday for its decision to sell its holdings in Britain's power generators a day before the industry regulator announced he was studying new electricity price curbs.

The government rejected charges that it had been negligent or dishonest in going ahead with the £4b. sell-off of National Power and PowerGen on Monday.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (8.3.95)				
Currency (Hapoalim bid)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.575	5.500	6.125	
British sterling (£100,000)	4.750	4.750	5.575	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.500	3.750	4.375	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.250	2.250	3.375	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.825	0.750	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.3.95)				
CURRENCIES AND TREASURES		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rate*
U.S. dollar	3.4430	3.4890	—	3.4685
U.S. dollar	2.5394	2.5790	2.59	2.5910
German mark	2.1464	2.1787	2.19	2.1920
French franc	4.8937	4.9018	4.74	4.87
Japanese yen (100)	0.0229	0.0214	0.02	0.0214
Dutch florin	3.2703	3.3185	3.22	3.2050
Swiss franc	1.9133	1.9494	1.89	1.8950
Swedish krona	2.5688	2.6232	2.54	2.5390
Norwegian krona	0.4129	0.4187	0.41	0.4150
Danish krone	0.4739	0.4854	0.47	0.4750
Finnish mark	0.5301	0.5375	0.52	0.5230
Belgian franc	0.0259	0.0266	0.026	0.0260
Caribbean dollar	2.0828	2.1121	2.05	2.0845
Australian dollar	2.1783	2.2050	2.25	2.2050
S. African rand	0.0241	0.0258	0.024	0.0245
Belgian franc (10)	1.0388	1.0545	1.02	1.0340
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0507	3.0838	3.00	3.0440
Italian lire (1000)	1.8094	1.8249	1.77	1.8115
Jordanian dinar	—	—	0.14	0.14
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.04	0.04
ECU	3.0319	3.0874	3.00	3.0315
Irish punt	4.8089	4.8748	4.89	4.8915
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3389	2.3729	2.28	2.3447

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

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Date: 7.3.95
Purchase Price: 133.39
Redemption Price: 131.26
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פרימיום PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 7.3.95
Purchase Price: 97.80
Redemption Price: 96.33
למכירה בלבד למכירה בלבד

Estate of the Late Amiel Emile Najjar
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 94 of the Succession Law, 5725-1965, that, by an order of the District Court of Jerusalem (Estate File number: 1083/94) Adv. Dr. Meir Roseanne and Anat Meiri have been appointed Administrators of the Estate of the late Amiel Emile Najjar, who died on August 30, 1994, and whose last place of residence was 58 rue Pergolée, Paris, France.
All persons with a claim on the above-mentioned estate are hereby notified that they should give written notice to the Administrators of the Estate of all claims, within 90 days from the publication of this notice. No claim whatsoever will be accepted after the termination of this period.
Dr. Meir Roseanne, Adv. Administrator of the Estate
Anat Meiri, Adv. Administrator of the Estate
BALTER, GUTH, ALON & CO., LAW OFFICES
23 HILL STREET, P.O. BOX 2430, JERUSALEM 91024 (02-12091)

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GALIT LIPKIS BECK
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Wimbledon manager to be punished for calling ref 'Hitler'

LONDON (Reuters) - Defiant Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear declared yesterday that he would continue to speak out against "diabolical" refereeing standards despite the prospect of a harsh punishment from the English Football Association.

Kinnear was dismissed by referee Robbie Hart as Wimbledon lost 1-0 to Manchester United on Tuesday following a controversial 84th minute goal from Steve Bruce.

After the match, Kinnear told reporters that Hart "sent me off in his normal Hitler fashion" and said he was prepared to put his career on the line because he would not stop airing his concerns.

"Whatever happens to me, I'll continue to tell the truth the way I see it and speak out against injustices in the game," Kinnear said.

"This was typical of the diabolical standards we have been suffering all season and Robbie Hart is one of the worst referees in the League in my opinion."

Kinnear also said video evidence proved time and again that referees were making mistakes, which were ignored by the FA.

His outburst followed Hart sending off Wimbledon left-back Alan Kinnear for failing to retreat 10 yards from a United corner - his second bookable offense of the game - which incensed both Kinnear and Wimbledon owner Sam Hamman.

Kinnear said: "He must be the first player in the world to be sent off for standing nine yards from a corner but the ref just kept saying to me 'get off the pitch, get off the pitch'. In the end he told me

to go in the stands and I thought I had better go."

Hamman could also now face FA action after police broke up an angry confrontation with Hart.

Kinnear, banned from the touchline last season for twice insulting linesmen, already faces an FA misconduct charge following remarks made about referee Mike Reed, who disallowed an injury-time equalizer at Newcastle six weeks ago.

Kinnear added: "I haven't been given a date yet for my hearing over the Newcastle thing, but no doubt I'll be given a heavy fine and then who knows what else for this ruck with Robbie Hart."

The winning goal, which came when Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers claimed Bruce should have been pulled up for dangerous play, put United back on top of the premier league.

Kinnear admitted he had "no qualms" about the legality of the goal but said: Segers was intimidated by Bruce going in with his foot up when the ball stuck in the mud, but in my opinion he made a cock-up by dropping it in the first place.

"The referee made a cock-up, too, when he sent Kinnear off and I told him so."

The fiery incidents at Selhurst Park were the second involving Manchester United at the same ground in the last six weeks.

When they played there on January 25 against Crystal Palace, which shares the ground with Wimbledon, Eric Cantona leapt into the crowd and kicked a fan while Paul Ince also allegedly assaulted another fan in the crowd.

Last night's results: Premier League: Blackburn 3, Arsenal 1; Manchester City 1, Chelsea 2; Newcastle 2, West Ham 0; Norwich 0, Sheffield Wednesday 0; Nottingham Forest 2, Everton 1; Queens Park Rangers 2, Leicester 0; Tottenham 3, Ipswich 0.

Division one: Millwall 2, Reading 0; Portsmouth 1, West Bromwich 2; Wolverhampton 1, Sunderland 0.

'Climbing wall' unveiled at Kiryat Malachi

JOEL GORDIN

A NEW "climbing wall," built for the growing number of Israeli sport-climbers, was officially unveiled at Kiryat Malachi, near Ashkelon yesterday.

The \$15,000, 7½-meter high wall is the most modern in the country. It is the replica of real rock face, complete with overhangings. It was designed by top UK climber Kevin Dixon who has spent the past two years in Israel teaching sport-climbing to the country's 3,000 enthusiasts.

The difference between sport-climbing and the more publicized rappelling, explained Dixon, is that "in rappelling, you descend a rock face, in sport-climbing, you ascend." The need for man-made rock faces or "climbing walls" make it necessary to upgrade the sport because it is more difficult to climb a "wall" than a natural rock face, he said.

"In any case, the strict rules governing the sport stipulate that the participant in a major tournament is not allowed to practice on rock face which he or she is to climb in a competition. Thus new walls must continually be built for international contests."

During a sport-climbing contest, climbers race against the clock, not each other. It can take about one

minute for a good international climber to scale a 7½m. wall, although few Israelis can do it in less than five.

The sport is to be introduced at the next Olympics, with the contestants competing on a 15m-high wall.

Dixon, 33, who was ranked 28th in the world in sport-climbing, came to Israel two years ago to promote products for his sponsor. He stayed on to work for the local adventure company Ezyar (challenge) which promotes sports-climbing, among other activities.

A second wall at Kiryat Ono is the same height as the new wall at Kiryat Malachi, but not as modern.

The opening of the wall was attended by dignitaries from the Kiryat Malachi council, from the Wingate Sports Institute, by the current Israeli men and women sport-climbing champions (Tal Levin and Borat Schohat) and by Doron Harel, the only Israeli to have climbed Mount Everest.

Dixon himself has climbed Everest twice. He also recently climbed the Shalom Tower in Tel Aviv in an attempt to make the Guinness Book of Records (he succeeded), has walked from Tel Aviv to Ethiopia and has worked as a stuntman in movies, including Star Trek.



HANGING ABOUT - Eyal Berkowitz (left) plans to move in on Turkey's Suat (scorer of the winning goal, with the ball) while defender Recep tries to keep the Israeli midfielder at bay.

Complacent Israel falls to Turkey

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL'S National soccer squad was defeated 2-1 by Turkey in last night's friendly contest in Istanbul.

The Israelis squandered chances galore in front of goal, then paid the ultimate price for some complacent defending, allowing the Turks to wipe out a 1-0 deficit in the 73rd minute, and then steal victory with a goal deep in injury time.

Despite having the lion's share of the possession, and displaying some thoughtful approach work, the Turks failed to live up to pre-match expectations. The Israelis should have sealed the result by the middle of the second half, when the Turks looked to have thrown in the towel.

The team's inability to do so will be one of the more worrying aspects of this performance, the last dress rehearsal for coach Shlomo Scharf before the important European championship

qualifier against France on March 29.

The first half was marked by a superb goalkeeping display by Bonnie Ginsburg. The Israeli goalkeeper stifled the Turks' offensive barrage almost single-handedly, as every ball floated into the Israeli penalty area at head height and seemed to find a free Turkish player. On the one occasion when Ginsburg was beaten in the first period, Moshe Giam came to the rescue with a clearance off the line.

As usual, Israel only looked comfortable going forward. Berkowitz had to wait until the 23rd minute, but for an athletic save by Sauer in the Turkish goal. Ten minutes later, Berkowitz had the ball in the net, but was adjudged offside.

It was Ronen Harazi who put the boys in blue ahead. Following a neat interchange with Berkowitz, Alon Hazan pulled away on the right wing in the 40th minute. His perfectly-timed pass fell straight into the path of Harazi who had sprinted into space. The Betar Jerusalem forward drilled his shot with precision into Sauer's net from just inside the area.

The match resumed with Rafi Cohen on for Ginsburg. Within a minute of the restart Israel could have increased the lead. Hazan surged through the Turkish defensive line, and his searing shot veered off the far post into the path of Harazi. This time Harazi's shot skewed over Sauer's upright.

The next ten minutes produced some exciting end-to-end action but no change in the score. The Turks then made a number of substitutions which served merely to disrupt the flow of their play.

Israel began to control the game. Good opportunities were wasted by Tal Benin and substitute Avishai Janno.

The introduction of Aykut restored the Turks to the fight, and in the 73rd minute he managed to volley a half-chance beyond Cohen for the equalizer.

Splendid chances fell at both ends late in the match to Turkey's Suat and then Israel's Ofer Mizrahi, but were not converted.

With the Israelis waiting for the referee to blow for time, Suat took a short pass from Mehmet and then struck the winner past a dazed Cohen and his fellow-defenders for the last-gasp winner.

Ewing scores season-high 46 points

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Patrick Ewing scored 38 of his season-high 46 points in the second half to lead the Knicks to a 115-110 victory over the Boston Celtics Tuesday.

Ewing, who also had 12 rebounds and six blocked shots, fell five points short of his career high, set against the Celtics in 1990. John Starks added 25 points for New York, which has won three straight and eight of its last 10.

Dino Radja scored 29 points for the Celtics, who have lost nine in a row to the Knicks. Forward Dominique Wilkins scored 19 points and became the ninth player in league history to reach 25,000 points.

Miami 110, L.A. Lakers 104. Glen Rice scored 13 of his 23 points in the first quarter and the Heat never trailed.

The host Heat won despite suspending starting forward Kevin Willis for the game for failure to comply with his back rehabilitation program. Wade Davis and Anthony Peeler scored 23 points each for the Lakers.

Cleveland 89, Detroit 81. Tyrone Hill scored the host Cavaliers' last 10 points as they held the Detroit Pistons scoreless for nearly eight minutes of the fourth quarter.

Hill, who had missed six games after surgery on his right hand, had 11 points off the bench. Chris Mills scored 24 to lead Cleveland, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

Terry Mills got 26 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, which has lost seven straight at Cleveland.

Utah 102, Sacramento 95 (OT). John Stockton scored 15 of his 28 points in a four-minute span bridging the fourth quarter and overtime as visiting milled.

Stockton scored Utah's last eight points of regulation as the Jazz erased an 89-82 deficit in the final 79 seconds of the fourth quarter.

Karl Malone scored 33 points to lead Utah.

Wait Williams scored 31 points for Sacramento, which has lost eight of its last nine games.

The Kings now lead Denver by just 2½ games for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Indiana 117, San Antonio 100. Rick Smith scored a season-high 35 points as the visiting Pacers rode a 16-point first-quarter lead to victory, snapping the Spurs' eight-game win streak.

Sean Elliott scored 28 points and David Robinson added 19 for the Spurs.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Utah W L Pct GB

San Antonio 48 16 .750 0

Houston 39 17 .692 2.5

Denver 35 24 .593 8

Dallas 27 31 .468 15.5

Minnesota 16 43 .271 27

Pacific Division

Phoenix W L Pct GB

Seattle 48 14 .767 0

LA Lakers 38 18 .678 8

Portland 35 21 .621 13.5

Sacramento 29 28 .509 15.5

Golden State 17 40 .298 27.5

LA Clippers 12 46 .200 34

South Africa beats New Zealand by 93 runs

AUCKLAND (AP) - Medium-pacer Fanie de Villiers upstaged skipper Hansie Cronje's century with a match-winning bowling performance yesterday as South Africa completed a 93-run win over New Zealand in the one-off cricket Test at Eden Park.

Cronje set up the victory by making 101 and then declaring his team's second innings and giving New Zealand a sporting target - 275 runs to win in 63 overs at 4.36 runs per over.

New Zealand, however, was bowled out for 181 in its second innings with 43 balls remaining.

The Kiwis appeared well on course for victory at tea, which was taken at 114 for three.

The quick loss of Stephen Fleming (27) and skipper Ken Rutherford (56) then put paid to their chances as De Villiers bowled impressively.

He accounted for openers Bryan Young and Darrin Murray in his first eight-over spell and then

returned to break the backbone of the home team's resistance - removing Rutherford and Matthew Hart.

South Africa, first innings 284

South Africa, second innings 181

New Zealand, first innings 228

New Zealand, second innings 181

Bryan Young c O'Connell b De Villiers 4

Darrin Murray c Matthews b De Villiers 4

Matthew Hart c O'Connell b Matthews 27

Ken Rutherford c O'Connell b De Villiers 56

Adrian Parore c O'Connell b Easson 24

Dipak Patel run out 12

Matthew Hart c O'Connell b De Villiers 6

Simon Latham c O'Connell b Donald 6

Don Hestie b Matthews 0

Denny Morrison not out 0

Extras (11b, 2nb) 181

Total (88.4 overs) 284

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-42, 3-50, 4-114, 5-145, 6-167, 7-174, 8-174, 9-178, 10-181.

Bowling: Easson 16-45-1, De Villiers 18-4-42-4, (1nb), Donald 6-24-1 (1nb), Matthews 12-5-3-47-3, Cronje 3-1-19-4.

Result: South Africa won by 93 runs.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	12	9	3	27	67	59
Philadelphia	10	9	3	23	69	64
N.Y. Islanders	9	10	3	21	65	63
Tampa Bay	9	12	2	20	62	69
New Jersey	8	9	4	20	66	54
Washington	7	10	3	19	52	65
Florida	7	12	3	17	51	68

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Quebec	16	4	3	35	92	58
Pittsburgh	15	6	2	32	94	76
Boston	12	9	4	28	86	83
Buffalo	8	12	4	20	47	43
Hartford	6	12	3	19	67	63
Montreal	7	10	4	19	52	65
Ottawa	3	14	3	9	44	67

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	14	7	1	29	83	52
Detroit	14	6	1	29	81	45
St. Louis	13	6	1	27	76	56
Toronto	10	10	3	23	65	65
Columbus	9	10	3	21	66	59
Winnipeg	8	11	3	19	63	78

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	11	8	4	26	73	58
San Jose	9	10	2	20	68	65
Vancouver	8	9	7	19	66	72
Edmonton	8	12	2	18	67	78
Los Angeles	5	11	4	14	60	63
Anaheim	5	14	1	11	44	79

TUESDAY'S RESULTS: Washington 3, Boston 1; Quebec 5, Pittsburgh 4; N.Y. Islanders 3, Hartford 1; Philadelphia 4, Tampa Bay 3; Calgary 6, Chicago 3; St. Louis 4, Anaheim 3.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Eldredge outskates Stojko

American Todd Eldredge emerged from three years in the wilderness to beat titleholder Elvis Stojko in the men's short program at the world figure skating championships in Birmingham yesterday.

Israel's Micha Shmerkin ranked 14th.

Reuters

Fletcher sacked as cricket manager

Keith Fletcher was yesterday dismissed as England cricket manager following the team's poor showing on the recent tour of Australia.

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) announced at a news conference that chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth would combine both jobs for the immediate future.

Reuters

Baseball talks could resume Monday

Baseball strike negotiations could resume as early as next Monday, Colorado Rockies chairman Jerry McMorris said.

McMorris, arriving for the owners' three-day meeting, said Tuesday he thought progress was made during last week's talks with the union at Scottsdale.

AP

Alaskan sets fast dog sled pace

Dee Dee Jannow of Willow, Alaska, was the first Iditarod musher into Nikolai, Alaska Tuesday. She set a blistering pace of nearly 12 mph on the 93-mile run from the Robn Roadhouse checkpoint, passing three mushers along the route.

Jannow, a perennial top 10 finisher, arrived at 11:51 am, followed by Bill Cotter 19 minutes later.

AP

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'Women leaders needed'

WOMEN should get out of the kitchen and into the cabinet. This is the message sent yesterday by female MKs to the country's women on International Women's Day.

The Knesset studied several different aspects of women's issues, devoting a plenum discussion and a special committee meeting on women in the arts to mark the occasion.

"It's a day on which we have to stop and examine our achievements and failures," MK Naomi Blumenthal told the plenum. Blumenthal is chairman of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women. "We have strength, goodwill, and ability, but we also feel frustrated by not moving forward."

A bill submitted by Blumenthal that would oblige local councils to appoint an adviser on women's affairs passed its first reading.

MK Limor Livnat (Likud) said the present Knesset is characterized by cooperation among left and right on women's affairs. Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni concurred, saying, "It's refreshing."

National Religious Party MK Avner Shai called violence against women a "mark of Cain"

LIAT COLLINS
and JEFF RICE

and "un-Jewish." He said legislation alone is not enough and an education and information campaign is also needed. The Arab sector was also discussed and Hadas MK Hashem Mahameed attacked Arab leaders who do not categorically denounce violence against women "and hide behind the pretext of 'tradition' and 'family honor,' which cannot justify violence and murder."

Mahameed added: "If women in Israeli society are repressed, women in Arab society are even more repressed."

Last night, the first few minutes of a Tel Aviv awards ceremony marking the tenth anniversary of the Israel Women's Network sounded almost like a rally for Palestinian rights.

Nabia Espagnoli, a Nazareth psychologist and social worker, who was one of four recipients of awards honoring work on behalf of women's rights quickly digressed from discussing her contribution to education and began to speak on behalf of the Palestinians.

In a loud and excited voice Espagnoli said, "I believe in the strength of justice and equality,

but justice and equality includes Palestinian rights. When I speak of starting here first, with the nation that sits beside us."

"In the Knesset, they say that the problem of the Palestinians has already passed, but it has not. The women's struggle includes the Palestinian struggle. We need to deal with the struggle now. We need to start with the struggle for our nation."

Naomi Nevo, who chaired the awards selection committee, rose from her seat as Espagnoli spoke and practically stopped her in mid-speech.

The ceremony then continued as planned with the remaining award recipients speaking about the importance of women's rights in Israeli society.

Mayor Ronni Milo, who had opened the ceremony, left the auditorium before the awards were distributed and didn't hear Espagnoli's address. Asked whether an award should have been given to someone who had actively supported the PLO before the Oslo accords, Milo replied, "I don't see a problem with her connection to the PLO."

(Prime Minister) Rabin and (Foreign Minister) Peres also have connections to the PLO."

Soldier who killed ex-girlfriend dies day after suicide bid

SOLDIER Shai Maimon, 22, who murdered his estranged girlfriend, Dorit Hakim, 21, on Tuesday and then shot himself in the head, died of his wounds early yesterday.

Maimon, who was doing his compulsory military service, shot Hakim in the throat and stomach with a pistol belonging to his brother, a policeman, before turning it on himself.

Maimon and Hakim, both of Mazkeret Batya, had been seeing each other for several years, before she decided to break off the relationship recently. On Tuesday she came to Maimon's home to talk with him. Shortly after she arrived, he shot her.

Haviv Hakim, Dorit's father, blamed the army for not warning the family about Maimon's disturbed emotional state.

"The army knew exactly what was going on with the boy," Hakim told Army Radio. "Yesterday, when I went to the police station, I found out he had a file full of treatments he had under-

gone for suicide attempts."

Just a day before his daughter's murder, he said, an officer called to inform him that Maimon was going to be discharged because he had become emotionally unstable after breaking up with Dorit.

Following the murder-suicide, WIZO issued a statement reminding the public of its ongoing seminars on preventing family violence. The seminars, which are conducted in high schools and at IDF bases for women soldiers, teach how to recognize the first signs of violence in a partner. (Itim)

Liav Collins adds:

A bill which would prevent reserve soldiers with a record of family violence from carrying weapons while on leave passed a preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday. The bill was proposed by MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), who said it is necessary in light of the fact that IDF-issue guns are commonly used in family murders.



Firefighters from Petah Tikva, Bnei Brak, and Ramat Gan battle a blaze yesterday that raged through and heavily damaged the Madaf plastics factory on Rehov Jabotinsky in Petah Tikva. The fire ignited various poisonous materials, but authorities eventually determined there was no threat to area residents. Huge quantities of water were needed to control the fire and prevent it from spreading to adjacent factories, and the road was closed for some four hours. The cause of the blaze was still not determined last night. (Shlomo Wolfovsky)

MKs fined for being absent from parliamentary work

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSET members who took time off from their parliamentary work will be made to pay with deductions from their wages. Eight MKs yesterday found themselves on the list of those whose absence had been noticed over the summer session.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (Likud), who missed 28 of the 46 meetings, had six days' pay deducted; Histadrut Secretary General Haim Ramon (Labor), who missed 18 meetings, had one day deducted; Ariel Sharon (Likud) lost three days' pay for the 22 meetings he failed to attend; Omer Mayor Pini Badash (Tsimet) missed 19 meetings for which he was fined two days' pay; Ma'arot Mayor Shlomo Bubbut (Labor) got a warning for missing 16 meetings; Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman (Labor) lost two days' pay for the 19 meetings he missed; David Levy

(Likud) was warned for missing 17 meetings and Yosef Azran (Shas) received a warning for missing 17 sessions.

Sharon wrote a letter to Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss in December admitting he had missed several meetings of the summer session and explained his absence by the extra work on his farm due to "the crisis in agriculture since the Oslo agreement. Agriculture has nearly collapsed which obliges us to work hard on the farm," he said in a handwritten note.

But he didn't stay on the farm all summer. Sharon noted he also went on a prolonged information campaign in the US "intended to strengthen Golan, Judea, Samaria and Gaza residents - the last line of defense in Israel."

He promised to do his best to take part in more sessions in the future.

Swiss demand return of Shmulevitz immediately

EVELYN GORDON

THE Swiss have refused to allow Ya'acov Shmulevitz, the key prosecution witness in the Deri trial, to remain here past today, and have threatened to suspend all legal cooperation with Israel if he is not returned promptly.

The State Attorney's Office said last night that it is still trying to persuade the Swiss to change their minds. The defense attorneys are currently in the middle of cross-examining Shmulevitz. By law, his testimony will be inadmissible if the defense is not allowed a full cross-examination.

The High Court of Justice has issued a temporary injunction against his return in response to a petition by Shmulevitz asking to remain. But the petition is to be heard this morning, and the state is asking the court to reject it and cancel the injunction on the spot.

Shmulevitz is under investigation in Switzerland in connection with a case of international corporate fraud. He was lent to Israel for six weeks to testify in the Deri trial, but the Swiss say his immediate return is now essential to their own investigation.

"We cannot comply with Israel's request [to extend Shmulevitz's stay]," said a March 6 letter from the Swiss Justice and Police Ministry, according to a Justice Ministry translation into Hebrew of the original German document. The letter was submitted to both the Jerusalem District Court and the High Court yesterday.

"(Shmulevitz's) presence is urgently required in Zurich for the purpose of inquiries which cannot be postponed any longer," the letter continued. "[However], there is no barrier to his being loaned to Israel again at a later date, if, during the ensuing investigation, he stands by the statements he has made to date."

In his response to the Swiss, head of the Justice Ministry's criminal division Yehoshua Resnick noted that he had warned the Swiss before the loan was arranged of the possibility that Shmulevitz would petition the High Court against his return.

Israel did not promise to prevent such a petition, he said; it merely promised to contest it in court - and it is doing this.

Though Shmulevitz arrived in Israel on January 24, his testimony did not begin until February 13, since the court chose to go on vacation during the first two weeks of February.

Shmulevitz did not testify yesterday, after he reported feeling unwell when he arrived in court, and was released by a doctor from appearing.

During yesterday's hearing, the judges criticized Deri's attorney, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, for revealing classified information about Shmulevitz's health.

Commenting on Shmulevitz's medical file, which disappeared from the records of the IDF Adjutancy-General, Avi-Yitzhak said that Shmulevitz probably did not return the file after he was given it to appear before a medical board.

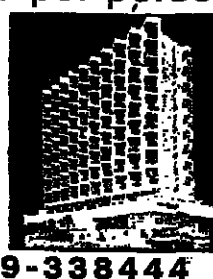
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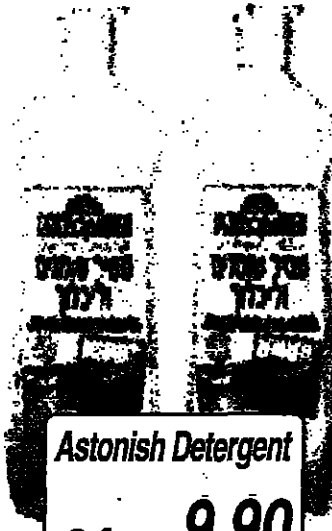
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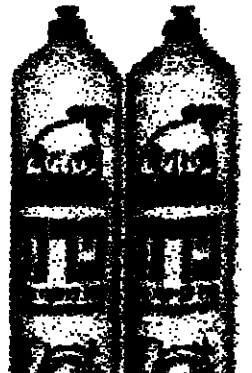
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